Foreign
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ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-046
Friday
8 March 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

Kaifu Not Informed of Bush Visit Postponement

OW0803050391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told reporters Friday that he has not been informed of a postponement of U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan.

In Washington, a senior U.S. official said Thursday that Bush will delay his official visit to Japan until the second half of this year. The official said, however, that there has been no formal decision yet.

Asked about the remarks by the U.S. official, Kaifu said that Japan is still arranging for Bush's visit to Japan through Presidential National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft.

The prime minister, however, did not provide a possible date for Bush's visit to Japan, which is widely expected to take place prior to a visit to Japan by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in mid-April.

Construction Market Compromise Sought With U.S.

OW0803071991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0625 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan is considering a compromise to break an impasse in U.S.-Japanese negotiations on the opening of the Japanese construction market, government sources said Friday.

The sources said the plan under consideration calls for a partial expansion of a special arrangement favorable to U.S. contractors willing to participate in construction projects in Japan.

The arrangement, agreed upon between the two countries in May 1988, offers more time to U.S. firms interested in bidding for 17 major public works projects.

The compromise will allow the arrangement to apply to some other projects, the sources said.

Washington, however, calls for such steps to apply to all public works projects, they said.

Under the special arrangement, U.S. contractors are given a maximum of three months from the opening of bidding to complete their bids, to give them a chance to learn and get used to Japan's bidding procedures. The period for Japanese firms is 10 days.

According to government figures, about 25 percent or 750 billion yen worth of contracts for the 17 major public works projects have already been concluded, with U.S. companies accounting for 4.0 percent or 30 billion yen.

During the previous round of negotiations held in January, the United States urged that the special arrangement be applied to all public works projects and that Japan modify and simplify its complicated bidding procedures.

Washington also called for the establishment of a neutral panel to deal with complaints by American companies participating in bidding.

The Construction Ministry agreed to the establishment of the claim settlement group but declined the other demands, claiming they would hamper smooth implementation of public works.

Market Said 'Open to U.S.'

OW0803133591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan's construction market is open to U.S. and other foreign companies despite Washington's charges of discriminatory practices, according to two government pamphlets released Friday.

In one, titled "Japan's Construction Market," the government argues, "Japan's construction market is open to any foreign firm, either in the private sector or in the public sector, and its system in no way discriminates between foreign and domestic companies."

In 1988, U.S. firms in Japan had a total turnover of 550 million dollars in the Japanese market, while Japanese companies in the U.S. did 500 million dollars in business with U.S. public and private entities, according to the other leaflet, titled "Five Truths of the Japanese Construction Market."

The government said Japan has "faithfully" implemented all the measures specified in a 1988 bilateral agreement on opening of the Japanese construction market, the U.S.-Japan Major Projects Arrangements (MPA).

The accord, which pledged that 17 specific public works projects worth an estimated 29.8 billion dollars would be open to foreign bidding, is a "training place" for foreign firms to become more familiar with the Japanese construction market, it said.

"Through MPA, the participation of U.S. firms in the Japanese construction market has been effectively promoted," it said.

Japan, however, has consistently rejected Washington's demands that the agreement be extended, opening all Japanese public works projects to foreign bidding. The United States, dissatisfied with such remaining barriers, is pressing Japan to do more to open the market.

The pamphlets, to be distributed to U.S. and Japanese Government agencies and industry organizations, also say that insufficient U.S. efforts are one reason for American firms' failure to penetrate the Japanese market.

Defending Japan's entry into the U.S. construction market, the government said Japanese construction companies operating there have made "a large contribution to the American economy and hardly contributed to America's trade deficit with Japan."

Of a total of 301.3 billion dollars awarded in fiscal 1988 to Japanese firms and affiliates operating in the U.S., 94 percent of the money went to local companies in the form of subcontracts, supply, and other contracts, the government said, citing a May 1989 survey on 28 Japanese construction firms operating in the U.S.

Moreover, 112.3 billion dollars, or 37 percent of this amount, came from the contractors' own investments in residential and urban development projects.

"This represents a great contribution to both the U.S. national and regional economies in the form of salaries and increased employment," it said.

PRC's Li Peng Welcomes Proposed Kaifu Visit

OW0803145791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1426 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Beijing, March 8 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in a personal message delivered to Chinese Premier Li Peng on Friday, said he plans to visit China "as early as possible," possibly in May.

Li welcomed Kaifu's intended trip but expressed reservations about the proposed use of the Japanese military for United Nations peace keeping activities, Japanese sources said.

"The use of the (Japanese) Self-Defense Forces for overseas operations is a sensitive issue in China," Li said in a meeting with former Japanese Finance Minister Michio Watanabe.

Li told Watanabe that Japan should act "most cautiously" on the United Nations peace keeping plan, which is currently being mulled by Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

China, which was invaded by Japan in the early part of this century, has taken a critical view of any Japanese move to deploy its armed forces outside the country.

Li suggested that Japan should limit its contribution to world security through its economic power, and not military capability, Japanese sources said.

Li is the second senior Chinese official in as many days to express Beijing's concern over the possible overseas deployment of Japanese Self-Defense Forces, as Japan's military is officially known. Vice Premier Wu Xueqian delivered a similar message to Watanabe in a meeting on Thursday.

Watanabe, a senior LDP politician, handed Kaifu's written message to Li at the outset of the 80-minute meeting Friday evening at Zhongnanhai, the walled headquarters of the top Chinese leadership.

The Japanese prime minister would be "welcomed enthusiastically" in China, Li said.

Kaifu said in his message that he plans to send Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to Beijing soon to lay the groundwork for his visit.

Kaifu mentioned no date for his trip, but Watanabe told Li that Kaifu has indicated that he plans to visit China as soon as the Diet, or Japanese parliament, winds up its current session on May 8.

Kaifu would be the first government leader from a major Western industrial power to visit China since the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing in June 1989.

Japan banned high-level exchanges with China and froze an 810 billion yen aid package following the crackdown, but its sanctions have been gradually eased since late last year.

Watanabe personally invited Li Peng and party Secretary General Jiang Zemin to Japan, but Li indicated that neither he nor Jiang has any immediate plan to make the trip. Li said he would consider the Japan trip after Kaifu's visit and Jiang would unable to go at least this year.

In a separate meeting with Watanabe earlier in the day, Li Ruihuan, member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo, indicated that China will maintain a conservative line while pursuing economic reform and an open-door policy, Japanese sources said.

Touching on the fall of the late Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang, Li said the two disgraced former party general secretaries had both disregarded the "four basic principles" first advocated by paramount leader Deng Xiaoping in 1979.

Hu and Zhao were stripped of their party posts after showing sympathy for student-led pro-democracy movements in 1986-1987 and 1989 respectively.

Li Ruihuan said the Chinese leadership will maintain the four principles—socialism, dictatorship of the people's democracy, leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, and Marxism-Leninism- Maoism—as the basic tenet in China's modernization policy.

Li was also quoted as telling Watanabe there will be no major changes in party leadership and policies at the People's National Congress due to open later this month.

Watanabe visited Indonesia and the Philippines before coming to Beijing and will return to Japan on Saturday.

Kaifu: Gorbachev's Situation May 'Hamper' Talks

OW0803103791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu suggested Friday that the uncertain domestic political situation facing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev may hamper progress on the two countries' territorial dispute during the Kremlin leader's historic visit, slated for April.

"We haven't thrown away our expectations and hope," Kaifu told reporters in a group interview.

But he suggested that demands for independence by the three Baltic states, food shortages stemming from a breakdown in the distribution system, and the growing influence of the military may make it difficult for Gorbachev to take decisive action toward resolving the four-decade dispute.

Japan is demanding the return of four small islands east of its northernmost main island of Hokkaido as a first step toward concluding a peace treaty. The islands were occupied by the Soviet Union after World War II.

Kaifu has repeatedly expressed hope that a breakthrough of sorts may be achieved during Gorbachev's planned April 16-19 visit, the first ever to Japan by a top Soviet leader.

Asked about Japan's minimal involvement so far in political discussions on the postwar situation in the Middle East, Kaifu said Japan will have the opportunity to air its views later.

"There is no clear scenario for postwar reconstruction and Mideast peace. If this is brought before the United Nations, (Japan) can make as many statements as it wishes," he said.

He noted that Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama plans to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington later this month after Baker returns from a tour of the Middle East and the Soviet Union.

Japan has not been included so far in a flurry of meetings between Baker and his European counterparts to discuss postwar policies, and as of Friday it appeared that Persian Gulf business could jeopardize a planned Japan-U.S. summit.

On Thursday a senior U.S. official said that a visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush, originally planned to take place before Gorbachev's trip, is likely to be put off until the second half of the year.

The U.S. official's comment came after the United States announced that Bush will meet with leaders of France, Canada and Britain in the near future to coordinate policies on the Middle East.

On relations with Israel, Kaifu indicated Japan may be prepared to offer technical assistance.

"Japanese foreign policy is not slanted toward the Arab nations," he said. "We appreciate Israel's self-restraint," alluding to the Israeli decision not to retaliate for repeated Iraqi Scud missile attacks on Israeli cities during the war.

The U.S. has encouraged Japan to help out Israel, diplomatic sources said. Japanese aid officials say, however, that Israel is not eligible for financial assistance because of its relatively high per capita income.

Finance Minister Anxious Over Soviet Economy

OW0803122591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Friday expressed anxiety over the current state of the Soviet economy and its immediate future.

Hashimoto made the remark during a House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting.

He warned that if the Soviet economy does not function smoothly, it will have an adverse effect on economic reforms in Eastern Europe, and may bring Germany's reunification to "naught."

Such a development is liable to spur an exodus of Soviet citizens, Hashimoto said.

He said the biggest post-Persian Gulf war demand for funds will probably come from the Soviet Union.

Soviet Official on Commitment to Civil Industry

OW0803123391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—A senior official of the Soviet Union's science and technology administration said Friday that Moscow's earlier decision to shift its emphasis from military to civil industry development remains unchanged.

Valeriy A. Mikhaylov, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, told a news conference in Tokyo that nearly one-third of space equipment to be exhibited at a Tokyo show will be based on military technology being converted for civilian use.

Mikhaylov is in Tokyo to attend a seminar on the Soviet Union's advanced technology starting Tuesday.

Mikhaylov said the government is now formulating legislative measures to compensate for workers who will lose their jobs due to closures of facilities related to the defense industry.

He said Moscow opened to the public more than 600 space shuttle-related technologies in 1990.

On display at the Tokyo seminar will be about 50 technologies in five fields: machinery, electronics, new materials, biotechnology, and chemicals.

The exhibition is significant in that it is being held in Tokyo ahead of a trip to Japan by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in April, he said, adding Moscow hopes to conclude as many contracts with Japanese enterprises as possible.

The Soviet Union held similar exhibitions in Italy and the former West Germany last year. Another exhibition is planned in South Korea later this year.

Normalization Talks With North Korea Previewed

OW0803120391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan and North Korea will resume talks Monday [11 March] on normalizing relations, focusing on Japanese compensation for its 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula and Tokyo's call for Pyongyang to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

This second round of talks is unlikely to be the last, but the two-day session is likely to be more businesslike than the first one in Pyongyang in January, with fewer speeches and more attention to practical detail, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

The talks will also deal with the plight of Japanese women who accompanied their Korean husbands to North Korea and have since been unable to leave, the officials said.

The 14-member Japanese team is headed by Noboru Nakahira, a veteran diplomat. Chon In-chol, a senior Pyongyang official, leads the 11-member North Korean mission, due in Japan on Sunday.

Japan established diplomatic ties with South Korea in 1965, providing 500 million dollars in economic assistance as compensation for colonial rule, but has never had relations with North Korea.

With the second round of talks approaching, senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials reiterated that Japan will not sacrifice its relations with Seoul or Washington to normalize ties with Pyongyang, adding that normalization must be accomplished in a way that contributes to stability in the whole Far East. They said they expect no "easy progress" in the upcoming session.

On the compensation issue, North Korea argues that Japan owes it compensation not only for its colonial rule, but for "losses" the North suffered during the 46 postwar years during which it says the two nations were technically at war. Pyongyang charges that Japan provided logistical support for the U.S. bombing of the North during the 1950-1953 Korean war.

Although the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social Democratic Party [SDP], the largest opposition group previously known then as the Japan Socialist Party, signed a joint communique with North Korea last September urging Tokyo to pay compensation for both the colonial and postwar periods, the Japanese Government says it will not be bound by the pledge.

The government in Tokyo says Japan is not responsible for "irregularities" in postwar relations, citing United Nations resolutions backing the U.S.-led war against the North.

The communique was concluded by the LDP and the SDP during a visit by leaders from the two Japanese parties to Pyongyang. The mission, led by senior LDP politician Shin Kamemaru and SDP Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe, paved the way for the government-level talks by winning the release of two Japanese seamen detained in North Korea, a problem which had long blocked better relations.

Japan, meanwhile, has demands of its own.

At the urging of Seoul and Washington, it insists that North Korea must allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities to ensure they are being used only for peaceful purposes. Tokyo argues that the existence of nuclear devices in North Korea would directly influence Japan's security.

Although Pyongyang is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it has not allowed IAEA inspections as the treaty requires, although it says it has neither the intention nor the capability to produce nuclear weapons. The North calls criticism of its nuclear energy program one-sided, saying that the United States should allow inspection of the nuclear weapons Pyongyang charges it has on military bases in the South.

Japan will also push the North to proceed with inter-Korean talks. Pyongyang called off the fourth round of North-South prime ministers' talks scheduled for late February to protest the annual U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit" joint military exercise.

Tokyo also wants a solution to the plight of the Japanese wives in North Korea, calling it a humanitarian issue separate from bilateral political talks. Tokyo is demanding that the women, many of whose families have not heard from them in decades, be allowed to write and visit their relatives in Japan. Pyongyang officials have indicated the issue will be solved in the course of the negotiations.

The North Korean delegates are also expected to continue pressing for better legal treatment for North Korean residents in Japan, many of them descendants of Koreans put to work against their will in Japanese mines and factories during the colonial era.

Another topic will probably be North Korea's accumulated debt to Japanese companies, on which Japan may press for quick payment. Although the debt was estimated at one point at some 80 billion yen, a Ministry of International Trade and Industry official said the government has no precise figure. There have been three debt rescheduling agreements reached, but they were not met, with the most recent one having expired unpaid at the end of last year, the official said.

North Korean officials have predicted that relations could be established this year, but a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said "that is probably too optimistic," adding that "we don't expect much progress." "In most cases," the official said, progress "depends on the North Korean side, how flexible they will be." Japan is not "ready to make concessions in most cases because our positions are very rational," he said.

He called postwar compensation the most difficult issue to resolve, followed by IAEA inspections of North Korean nuclear plants, and said there will be at least a third round of talks.

Government To Send Medicine, Relief to Kuwait

OW0803100691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan will send about 30.5 million yen worth of first-aid kits, blankets, electric generators and other relief goods to Kuwait as emergency assistance to the war-torn country, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Ministry officials said the Kuwaiti Government is concerned about the possible spread of epidemics due to poor sanitary conditions in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war and asked Japan for help.

The total cost of the aid, including transport, is about 52.8 million yen.

The materials will be sent through the Japan International Cooperation Agency via Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where they will be airlifted to Kuwait by military aircraft because the international airport in Kuwait City is still unusable.

Kuwait Envoy Unhappy With Reconstruction Pledges

OW0803140491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Kuwait's envoy to Tokyo called on Japan Friday to make a formal political pledge to help his war-ravaged nation recover, a process he estimated would cost tens of billions of dollars over the next five years.

"What is needed is a clear political commitment that, yes, these (Kuwaiti) people are all right, they have gone through a lot, and it is high time that we help them," Ambassador 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sharikh told a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents Club.

The envoy expressed dissatisfaction with Japanese promises to contribute to postwar recovery of the region.

While admitting that "I don't know exactly what our government and our technical people want Japan to do," he said the Japanese Government's "casual statements" are not enough to allow Kuwait to seriously expect support.

Al-Sharikh said he expects Japanese firms to win some reconstruction contracts due to the longstanding friendly relations between the two nations, but called it only fair and a matter of common sense that the bulk of the contracts will go to countries that dispatched soldiers to help free Kuwait.

No Japanese firms were among the 36 companies awarded contracts February 28 for the early stages of the recovery program. All but four of the winning companies were from the United States, Britain, or Saudi Arabia, which all played major roles in the eviction of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The ambassador said the first stage of recovery, aimed at restoring basic services such as water and electricity, will last three months and cost around 1 billion dollars.

The second part of the two-step process could take five years or more, and cost tens of billions of dollars, he said.

Al-Sharikh said Kuwait may borrow money to fund reconstruction, but denied speculation that the government may be planning large-scale sales of assets or huge loans to finance the endeavor. Kuwait will remain a reliable investor, he said.

The envoy said it could take months to resume crude oil exports.

Iraq destroyed most of Kuwait's oil production and refining facilities before its troops began to return home a week ago, and set oil well fires that may take months to extinguish.

Al-Sharikh said he would like to see the international community help the Iraqi people oust President Saddam Husayn by maintaining sanctions, and ensuring that Iraq is not able to rebuild a military capable of threatening its neighbors.

The envoy painted a picture of a vastly changed society emerging from the ruins of war in Kuwait.

The parliament, dissolved in July 1986, will be revived, and the vote will probably be extended to women, al-Sharikh said. He said, however, that the nation will put tighter restrictions on foreign workers, having nearly "lost control" of the foreign population in its bid for rapid development.

Before Iraq's August 2 invasion, about three out of every four inhabitants of Kuwait were foreigners, who filled most of the country's menial jobs but enjoyed few of the rights or benefits accorded to Kuwaiti citizens.

Security will be a priority in determining which nationalities will be allowed, and how many, he said. He did not specify any nationalities, but a number of Palestinian residents have been accused of collaborating with Iraqi forces during the occupation.

Government Unveils New Peacekeeping Organization

OW0803124191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Friday unveiled the outline of a new organization that would provide logistical support such as transportation and communications for United Nations peacekeeping operations in world trouble spots.

The new organization would include retired members of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) but would not directly participate in U.N. peacekeeping military operations, government sources said.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Tadamori Oshima met Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and three other LDP executives to explain the government plan for creating a logistical support corps to assist the U.N.

Under the new plan, the corps would be set up completely separate from the SDF and not include SDF reservists or SDF members on leave of absence, the sources said. The corps would possess its own vessels, vehicles and other equipment necessary to assist the U.N. efforts.

The government plans to submit a bill to create the corps to the Diet in mid-April after discussions among the LDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], LDP sources said.

The LDP and the two centrist opposition parties have agreed to draw up an alternative plan when a previous government-proposed U.N. peace cooperation bill was scrapped last November because of strong resistance from opposition parties. The bill was aimed at sending noncombatant members of the SDF abroad for the first time since the end of World War II.

The LDP has called for participation of SDF reservists in the new organization, but the DSP has demanded that SDF personnel on leave of absence be allowed to join the corps and that the SDF be allowed to "loan" personnel.

Komeito, however, has opposed such ideas and insists that only retired members of the SDF be allowed to take part in the new organization.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told reporters that the government will draw up the bill based on a hoped-for agreement among the three parties and strive to enact it.

Discussions With LDP

OW0803133991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Before a formal meeting is held among the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] on the creation of an organization to cooperate with the UN peacekeeping operation, government officials and the LDP's four top officials met today to exchange views.

During the meeting, they confirmed the basic plan to create an organization completely separate from the Self-Defense Forces [SDF]. As for creating an organization to cooperate with the peacekeeping forces, the government and the LDP plan to hold discussions next week with Komeito and the DSP to work out concrete plans.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Oshima, who attended the meeting to consult with the LDP's four top officials, explained the outcome of the government's study on the makeup of the organization, the scope of its duties, and problems to be resolved. At the meeting, participants confirmed that, based on an agreement reached by the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP last autumn, an organization independent of the SDF will be created.

Commenting on today's meeting, an LDP source said that the creation of a separate organization from the SDF means that SDF members will not be dispatched overseas as long as they remain in their current posts and will not be seconded to the peacekeeping forces. Regarding the status and the scope of duties of those who participate in the organization, participants agreed to hold further discussions. The LDP plans to call a meeting among the secretaries general of the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP next week to discuss creating a new organization.

Ozawa To Visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

OW0803134691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The secretary general of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will leave Saturday for a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as head of a party fact-finding mission in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war. Ichiro Ozawa at first planned to also go to Syria and Egypt but dropped the two from his itinerary because of scheduling problems, LDP officials said.

The seven-member mission will include former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi, who served as leader of a similar mission in January, and former Construction Minister Yoshiaki Kibe, who chairs the Japan-Arab Parliamentarians Friendship League. The visit by Ozawa is the first by a leading figure within the LDP.

The mission will meet Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti leaders for talks covering Japan's contributions to postwar recovery, pollution control measures in the Persian Gulf and a new postwar Middle East order.

The mission is also scheduled to inspect damage from an oil slick released into the Gulf at the height of the war and to meet Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the United States commander of the multinational forces which fought a successful campaign against Iraq after Iraq invaded and annexed Kuwait on August 2.

Ozawa will use information gained in the visit to map out Japanese policy on contributions as well as cooperation in United Nations peacekeeping activities in accord with an agreement among the LDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

One mission member said the timing of the visit is appropriate, even though the Diet is currently in session, because it comes in the wake of a flurry of similar visits to the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and European leaders.

The mission will return to Japan next Thursday.

Environmental Mission Leaves for Persian Gulf

OW0803072591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0554 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—A Japanese environmental mission left Tokyo on Friday for four Middle East countries to assess environmental damage caused by the Persian Gulf war.

The 14-member government mission will visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates over an 18-day period.

It will collect information on air pollution caused by smoke from burning oil wells in Kuwait, and also the effects of the massive amount of crude oil dumped into the Gulf on wildlife including turtles, various species of fish, and the dugong, or sea cow.

The government will finalize plans on providing technical assistance, including helping clear up the oil spill and save threatened wildlife in the Gulf, after receiving a report from the mission, officials said.

Agency Warns Gulf Oil Fires Pose Health Risks

OW0803135791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan's environment agency warned Friday that air pollution caused by Kuwait oil well fires could pose serious health hazards to people living in and around the oil rich emirate.

Fires are still burning at 620 wells in seven areas of Kuwait after reportedly being lit by Iraqi troops during the Persian Gulf war, and are blackening the skies and filling the air with the stench of burning petroleum.

The agency estimated that 35,000 tons of sulfur dioxide are being emitted into the atmosphere every day from the burning oil wells, equivalent to the amount emitted over 20 days in Japan.

Citing data assembled by the King Fahd Mineral Sources University in Saudi Arabia, the agency said that the density of sulfur dioxide in the air over southern Kuwait exceeded Japanese regulatory standards by 40 times. In Saudi Arabia, the density of sulfur dioxide also exceeded that nation's standards in 14 of the 25 cities along the Gulf.

According to the agency, if the toxic substance continues to be discharged into the air over a long period, it will seriously affect people's respiratory systems.

MITI To Suspend Oil Processing Capacity Cut

OW0703140191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1339 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—The Agency of Natural Resources and Energy will suspend its administrative guidance to Japanese oil refiners to reduce primary oil processing facilities, agency officials said Thursday.

The move was prompted by concerns the Persian Gulf crisis could affect supplies of oil products on the international market, the officials said. The agency is part of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

Although the crisis is now over, there still are destabilizing factors such as when Kuwait, which supplied 800,000 barrels of oil products a day before the crisis, will completely return to the market, and where the long-term supply-demand balance will shift in the global market, the officials said.

Under the agency's direction, Japanese oil refiners have been slashing their capacity for primary processing of crude oil—the process of producing heavy oil from crude—since 1983 because of declining demand for heavy oil.

As a result, capacity dropped to the current 4.55 million barrels a day from 5.94 million barrels in 1983.

In this connection, a top-ranking MITI official on Thursday denied that the ministry will soon allow Japanese oil refiners to expand their facilities for primary processing of oil.

MITI Vice Minister Yukiharu Kodama said at a press conference, "We should take into consideration several factors such as the long-term supply-demand outlook in the Asian region and the impact of consuming oil on the environment." His remark came in response to a newspaper report that MITI planned to allow oil refiners to boost their primary oil processing capacity for the first time in 18 years.

Imports accounted for about 20 percent of domestic consumption of oil products such as fuel oil just before the Gulf crisis started last August. MITI permitted imports of refined oil products in 1986.

The crisis caused a temporary shortage of supply of some products, like naphtha, in Japan.

But the agency has no plans now to increase capacity for primary processing because it believes the demand for heavy oil, mainly from corporate users such as electric power companies and manufacturers, will continue to decline, officials said.

The agency, however, will allow oil refiners to boost their capacity for the secondary oil processing—the process for extracting gasoline, kerosene, and other transparent products from heavy oil.

The agency will delay releasing its oil supply plan for the next five years to fully analyze the effect of the Gulf crisis on the world oil situation. The plan usually is released every March.

Government Ready To Halve Polish Debt

OW0803072091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0556 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—A high-ranking Finance Ministry official indicated Friday that Japan is ready to cut 50 percent of Poland's debt to Japan if an agreement on the official debt issue is reached by leading industrialized creditor nations next week.

"A 50 percent (cut in the debts) is inevitable, but it will also depend on conditions and the situation of each country," the official, who wants to be unidentified, said.

Poland's debt with Japan is close to 190 billion yen at the end of November of 1990, which includes yen credits and loans from the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

Japan rejected a call by the U.S. in January to slash 80 percent of Poland's official debt, arguing that such a move would prevent it from extending fresh credit.

But Japan has decided to soften its stance on the issue to help Poland out of its economic straits, aggravated by the Persian Gulf War, and in consideration of the U.S. position, the anonymous finance official said.

There are three options in the debt reduction plan for creditor nations, which are reduction of the principal, or the amount loaned, the lowering of interest payments on the debt, and the extension of the deadline to pay off the total debt, which combines the principal and the interest payments.

Poland Asks For 80% Cut

OW0803120891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Polish Prime Minister Jan Bielecki asked Japanese leader Toshiki Kaifu by telephone on Friday to cut Poland's debt to Japan by 80 percent, the Foreign Ministry said.

Prime Minister Kaifu replied that Japan cannot fully meet the Polish request but indicated that Tokyo is ready to reduce the debts to some extent, a ministry official said in a briefing.

While acknowledging Poland's difficulties to fight its massive debt problem and transform itself into a market-oriented economy, Kaifu told Bielecki that Japan cannot grant an 80 percent cut, the official said.

A senior Finance Ministry official said earlier Friday that cutting Poland's debt by half is inevitable, depending on conditions.

Bielecki's call to Kaifu was part of Warsaw's efforts to obtain relief from its debt burden to Western countries, the official said.

The international committee of Poland's creditors, called the Paris Club, will convene in the French capital from March 12, the official said.

Poland's external debts stood at 48.5 billion dollars in January, the largest among East European countries. Within that amount, it owes 33.3 billion dollars to advanced industrialized nations.

Japanese Government figures indicate that Poland owes Japan 190 billion yen (about 14.6 billion dollars), including its official development assistance and loans from the Export-Import Bank.

Kaifu's stance reflects the fact a big share of "public money" loans come from semiofficial monetary bodies, according to the official.

Bielecki's telephone call follows a letter from President Lech Walesa to Kaifu in January, which also sought Tokyo's help in debt cut schemes, the ministry official said.

Bielecki also told Kaifu that Poland is trying to make itself "another Japan" to achieve the economic progress Walesa proposed in 1980 when the Solidarity movement emerged as a political force.

South Korea Agrees to Nuclear Safety Proposal

OW0803130591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—South Korea has agreed to Japan's proposal on building up wide-ranging bilateral cooperation to boost the safety of nuclear power plants, the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy announced Friday.

The two countries have agreed to hold annual meetings to exchange information on issues of nuclear safety, to exchange published information on the actual operations of nuclear power plants every three months, and to exchange nuclear experts. The five-year agreement, to start this year, can be extended through mutual agreement.

The new pact is the embodiment of an accord between the two governments aimed at building cooperation in the area of nuclear power policy, which was reached when South Korean President No Tae-u visited Japan last May.

South Korea is the fifth country with which Tokyo has such a bilateral agreement on nuclear power safety. The others are the United States, Germany, France, and Sweden.

Doi Leaves for Socialist International Meeting

OW0803141791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Social Democratic Party Chairwoman Takako Doi left for Australia on Friday to attend a Socialist International meeting to be held in Sydney next week, party officials said.

During her stay in Sydney, Doi will have talks with former West German Chanceller Willy Brandt and British Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock.

Accord Signed With Brazil on Mercury Pollution

OW0803140691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 8 KYODO—Japan will help Brazil tackle a serious problem of mercury pollution in the Amazon basin caused by gold mining activities in the region, Japanese officials said Friday. The two governments reached an accord on the matter in late February, the officials said.

The agreement, between the National Research Institute for Pollution and Resources under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Brazilian Government's Mining Industry Bureau, calls for joint development of a low-cost, mercury-free gold refining technology.

Some staffers of MITI's pollution research body will visit the Amazon region as early as April to carry out a fact-finding survey on mercury-contaminated areas, the officials said. Mercury is used to separate gold from ores collected from Amazon riverbeds and is discharged into the water and air in the course of the refining process. Some 1.6 million gold miners are working at mines along the Amazon.

An estimated 1,200 tons of mercury-contaminated water and steam have been released into the vast river basin over the past 10 years, the officials said.

The results of one survey warned that nearly two million local residents will suffer health problems from mercury pollution in the coming 10 years, they said. Over four times more mercury has been detected in the hair of residents in the southern Amazon region than in that of Rio de Janeiro residents, according to another survey conducted by a local university study team, they said.

The tightening of restrictions on mercury sales two years ago has simply led to the circulation of the dangerous heavy metal in the black market, the Japanese officials said.

Expectations are growing among Brazilians that Japan will provide them with technology that will help them avoid the misery of mercury poisoning such as afflicted people in Minamata, southern Japan in the sixties, they said.

Ministry Expects Increase in Number of Taxpayers

OW0803125691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The number of taxpayers among wage earners is expected to increase markedly in fiscal 1990, with their growth rate exceeding that of salaried workers, the Finance Ministry reported Friday.

The ministry attributed the increase in the number of taxable wage earners to a steady rise in pay coupled with the government's decision to retain the minimum taxable income for a standard couple with two children unchanged at 3,198,000 yen a year in fiscal 1990, which ends on March 31, 1991.

The development may prompt opposition parties to demand a hike of the minimum taxable income level, ministry sources said.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the House of Representatives Budget Committee Friday he is opposed to raising the tax exemption ceiling.

The ministry said the number of wage earners in fiscal 1990 increased 1,910,000 over the preceding year to 48,700,000, of whom earners of taxable income increased 2,190,000 million to 41,800,000.

The ministry said its calculation showed that wage earners will increase 950,000 in fiscal 1991 while taxable income earners will grow 1,780,000.

In fiscal 1989, when the minimum taxable level was raised to the present 3,198,000, salaried workers increased 1,410,000 while the increase of tax-paying earners grew 520,000.

If the present trend continues, the ratio of taxpayers to wage earners will rise to about 90 percent from the present 85 percent, the ministry said.

Ministry officials said the growth of the ratio would not justify a demand for raising the taxable level since Japan's ceiling is among the highest in the world.

Banks May Revise Rates on Tax-free Accounts

OW0803015491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1322 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 (KYODO)—Major Japanese commercial banks are discussing a revision of the interest rate fixing formula for tax-free savings accounts offered only to salaried workers, locally known as "Zaikei," sources said Thursday.

The revision is chiefly designed to make the Zaikei (property accumulation savings) accounts more attractive to salaried workers by making them into high-return financial products, the sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The move comes as the interest rate on the Zaikei accounts offered by banks is lower than similar Zaikei accounts offered by long-term credit banks and trust banks.

The outstanding balance of deposits in Zaikei accounts at banks and other financial institutions stood at some 13.6 trillion yen at the end of September last year.

But banks lag far behind on the Zaikei market, with deposits in Zaikei accounts offered by banks alone accounting for only 10 percent of the outstanding deposits.

The sources said the talks are being initiated by a group of senior officials from major commercial banks to introduce a new rate formula as early as fiscal 1991, the year before the Finance Ministry reportedly plans to abolish all regulations on bank deposit rates.

At present, Zaikei accounts by banks carry rates tied to two-year maturity-designated time deposits, whose rates are fixed on the basis of the Bank of Japan's official discount rate.

Maturity-designated time deposits are one of the major products offered by banks and can be withdrawn anytime on demand after a specified duration.

Banks now provide three types of Zaikei accounts, general accounts, housing accounts, and pension accounts. Under the current method, general Zaikei accounts, or the only Zaikei accounts subject to a 20 percent separate taxation rate at source, currently yield 6.33 percent per annum.

According to the sources, a new formula would raise rates on Zaikei accounts by up to 1.25 percentage points. The new system would use so-called "super MMCs," or money market certificates, as a benchmark for setting rates on Zaikei accounts.

The super MMCs, a type of short-term financial instrument that bears market-linked rates, are to be offered in minimum units of 500,000 yen, starting in April.

The sources said a consensus has not been reached on details, and some acknowledged that higher rates would not be enough to attract salaried workers to Zaikei accounts, noting that the revision is only the first step.

"It's an imminent job to modernize the Zaikei system itself," said an executive at one major commercial bank. "One of the options would be expanding the scope of the tax-free amount for pension and housing Zaikei accounts," he said.

Currently, a salaried worker can deposit a total of 5 million yen in one Zaikei account, or a combination.

Bank Demand Deposit Rates May Change Next Year

OW0803141691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The Finance Ministry as early as spring 1992 may allow banks to offer a new account for demand deposits that would enable now strictly controlled rates to correspond to profits and earnings of individual banks.

According to officials at the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau, the new savings-type account will allow for rates which could differ on a bank-to-bank basis. The new account system would be different somewhat between major nationally operated banks, known as city banks, and regional banks.

Both city and regional banks could offer rates at their will. The rate at a city bank would be fixed regardless of the amount of outstanding deposits, but that at a regional bank would be determined in accordance with such an amount.

Also, city banks could charge depositors account fees when their outstanding deposits fall below a certain level, while regional banks would not collect any account fees in any case.

For the Finance Ministry, the new account system would mark the first step toward lifting rate regulations on demand deposits and other liquid deposits, a practice strongly sought by the U.S. Treasury Department in bilateral finance talks.

Financial analysts say the new account would speed up interest rate liberalization and could usher in an era of severe competition for deposits among banks.

Officials at the Banking Bureau acknowledge that more regulation-free accounts might come in the future. "We're going to let banks offer products they can hammer out in accordance with their management power," one official says.

Largest Itoman Shareholder Sells Shares

OW0703151791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1435 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Osaka, March 7 KYODO—The de facto largest shareholder in Itoman Corp. has sold a large chunk of his holdings in a move that appears aimed at repaying debt owed to the Japanese trading house saddled with huge property-related debts, sources familiar with the deal said Thursday.

Ho Yong-chun, a businessman who had held an 18.64 percent equity stake in Itoman in the names of two companies he controls, faces an end-of-March deadline for paying at least 55.7 billion yen he borrowed from Itoman with paintings offered as collateral.

The sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the stock sales involve the president of Osaka Fumin Credit Cooperative, Hiroshi Minamino, said to have close relations with Ho, who appears to have helped Ho raise the money needed for repayments of the borrowed money. The sources say a large part of the sold shares were bought by at least two companies with close ties with Minamino.

Akihiro Yasui, chief manager at Osaka Fumin's general management department, denied such allegations, however. "Our union is not involved in the stock purchase," he said.

A document filed Wednesday with regulators shows one of Ho's companies sold some 5.46 million shares in Itoman at 520 yen per share in late February. On top of the sale, another company owned by Ho sold some 5.15 million shares in Itoman at 680 yen per share in cross trading Wednesday, according to the sources.

Despite the large stock sales, Itoman's stock rose sharply on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Wednesday, posting a maximum daily allowable gain of 100 yen for the second session in a row. It closed at 680 yen on Thursday, up 10 yen from Wednesday.

The Finance Ministry reportedly has begun investigating transactions involving Itoman's stock on allegations that there might have been price manipulation.

Osaka Fumin, one of the biggest credit unions in Japan, has been faced with a fund shortfall resulting from sharp reductions in its lending and deposit bases.

International Delivery Services Increasing

OW0703131391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—International parcel shipments out of Japan jumped 30.9 percent in weight during fiscal 1989, the Transport Ministry said Thursday. The total weight of packages sent overseas was 13,881 tons in fiscal 1989, which ended March 31, 1990, a 30.9 percent hike from fiscal 1988, the ministry said. Overall sales of parcel delivery companies reached 45.3 billion yen, up 13.5 percent from 1988.

International door-to-door parcel delivery services in Japan have had steady double-digit growth since fiscal 1986, when the ministry started surveying such services, ministry officials said.

A few years ago, more than half of all packages sent out of Japan went to North America, but in fiscal 1989, Southeast Asia was the most popular destination, claiming 34.2 percent of all shipments, they said. North America was second, receiving 33.3 percent, followed by Europe with 20.4 percent.

North Korea

KCNA Reports 'Grave Provocation' by South

SK0803113391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets today committed a grave provocation by firing large-calibre machine-gun towards a civil police post of our side in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the western sector of the front.

At around 09:35 today South Korean puppets in the DMZ southeast of Taeryong-ri, Panmun County, installed at the position the large-calibre machine-gun which had been introduced by stealth and sniped at the civil police post of our side opposite to it.

Machine-gun bullets fell around the civil police post of our side, gravely menacing the lives of our civil policemen on their routine duty.

The incident did not expand into an armed conflict between the two sides entirely because the civil police of our side did not return the fire, displaying self-restraint.

Such an act of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers is a deliberate and premediated provocation to exacerbate North-South relations and still more aggrvate the already strained tensions on the Korean peninsula where a war may break out any moment.

Our people and People's Army soldiers are closely watching with heightened revolutionary vigilance the grave military provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets these days in repeatedly firing guns and rifles towards posts of our side in the DMZ, while staging the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" exercises.

Radio on 'Premeditated Provocation'

SK0803120591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1055 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The South Korean puppets today committed a grave military provocation by firing large-caliber machine guns from the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] at our side's civil police outposts in the west front.

At around 0935 today, the South Korean puppets, who occupied the DMZ in southeast of Taeryong-ni, Panmun

County, installed large-caliber machineguns, which they have secretly dragged in, to their position, and made precision firing [chojun sagyok] at our side's civil police outpost in the opposite side.

A number of machinegun bullets fired by the South Korean puppets fell on and around our side's civil police outposts and have gravely endangered the life of our side's civil policemen, who were carrying out a routine mission in order to defend the most forward front outposts of the socialist fatherland.

The rascals' firing incident did not expand into an armed clash between the two sides entirely because our side's civil policemen did not fire back but demonstrated the power of self-control [chajeryok].

With the approach of a full-scale actual mobilization stage in the criminal Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets enveloped all areas of South Korea in the atmosphere of the terror of a bloodthirsty war. The firing incident, which was again committed to coincide with this, is the rascals' artificial and premeditated provocation designed to intentionally aggravate North-South relations and to further aggravate acute tension on the Korean Peninsula where a war may break out at any moment.

Of late, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets fired rifles and guns one after another from the DMZ at our side's outposts after kicking off the aggressive Team Spirit-91 war exercise. Our people and the soldiers of our People's Army are closely watching such a grave military provocation with heightened revolutionary vigilance.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should correctly look at the grave situation being created on the Korean Peninsula due to their dangerous playing with fire. They should not commit rash and reckless acts.

U.S. Holds 'Another Nuclear Air Strike Exercise'

SK0803051991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on March 6 staged another nuclear air strike exercise against the North with the Korean Peninsula as its operational theatre, according to military sources.

The two rounds of provocative war games in the skies above Kongju, Kangrung and Kunwi in South Korea involved formations of nuclear-capable F-15 fighter-bombers brought from the Kadena base in Japan for the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises and scores of F-16 fighter-bombers of the U.S. 7th Airforce present in South Korea.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists let formations of Guam-based KC-135 refuelling tankers fly above Chongup in an exercise for mid-air refuelling of more than 30 fighter-bombers and observation planes.

They also brought formations of C-141 and C-130 transport planes carrying huge aggression forces for the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises to the Osan Airfield from the U.S. mainland and bases in the Pacific.

On the same day, they brought an EC-130 reconnaissance plane to the sky above Samchok and Pyongtaek from the mainland and let it make repeated flights for an aerial espionage on targets in the depths and wide areas of the Northern half of Korea.

At the same time, with the full-scale offensive stage of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises near at hand, they introduced scores of formations of F-16, F-15, A-10, A-4, KC-10, KC-135 and other fighter-bombers, assault planes, tanker planes, transport planes, helicopters, electronic jamming planes and reconnaissance planes from the U.S. mainland and bases in the Pacific into the Osan, Kunsan and Taegu airfields. And they sent groups of combatant ships including a guided missile cruiser, a nuclear-powered submarine and guided missile destroyers to the South Korean waters and ports and keep them ready for sortie any moment.

Military Attache in Moscow on Mobilization

SK0803092291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] A news conference took place on 4 March at our country's embassy to the Soviet Union in connection with the release of a communique by the Korean People's Army [KPA] Supreme Command. Present at the news conference were reporters from Soviet newspapers, news agencies, broadcasting stations, and magazines and pertinent officials. Kim Chon-han, military attache at our country's embassy to the Soviet Union, spoke at the news conference.

He explained the KPA Supreme Command communique that says that, in connection with the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique again started the criminal Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, the KPA supreme commander has ordered all units of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces and all members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards to assume a combat mobilization posture.

He disclosed that just when the Government of our Republic proposed that the North and South adopt a nonaggression declaration by consensus and completely suspend the aggressive Team Spirit joint military exercise or suspend it for at least two or three years to reunify the fatherland in a few years, which is the unanimous earnest desire of all the Korean people, and when it has made all sincere efforts toward that end, the U.S. and South Korean warmongers, turning a blind eye even to our conciliatory proposal, started the aggressive joint military exercise against us. He denounced this as a challenge that runs counter to the trend of the times.

He pointed out: Suspending the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a pressing problem in order to end the North-South mistrust and confrontation and promote trust and peace. However, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets started the joint military exercise anyway and are running wild to complete various operational plans to attack the northern half of the Republic.

He said that, under these circumstances, in which the U.S. imperialists have tested in the Gulf war newly developed weapons and equipment and operational strategies that were completed in exercises on the U.S. mainland and the previous Team Spirit joint military exercises, this year's Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise by those fellows is a very criminal and aggressive military operation that seriously endangers peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the cause of peacefully reunifying Korea.

He also said: Under these circumstances, in connection with the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean warmongers again started the adventurous Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, the KPA supreme commander released an order to all units of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces and all members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards that they assume a full combat mobilization posture.

He also said that if the U.S. imperialists continue to bring the dark clouds of war into the Korean Peninsula, rain is inevitable, and he stressed that the experiences of the world show that those who take pleasure in the fire of a war of aggression will burn to death in that fire.

He pointed out that the Korean people will make efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula and stability in the Asian and Pacific region, and strongly demanded that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets stop the criminal Team Spirit joint military exercise at once.

He answered questions at the news conference.

KCNA Cites Soviet Spokesman on Team Spirit

SK0803043691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry at a press briefing Wednesday said that the joint military exercises "Team Spirit 91" staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities and armed provocations in some area of the Demilitarized Zone are aggravating the instability of the Korean Peninsula and have already led the North-South high-level talks to suspension, according to a TASS report.

South Crewman Defects Through 'Third Country'

SK0803045691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—Chong Man-chol, a young crewman of the Panamanian-flagged ship "Steres Emperor" of a South Korean shipping company, recently came over to the northern half of Korea through a third country.

Hailing from Paju County, Kyonggi Province, he graduated from a high school and worked as a fisherman of pelagic fishing ships and then as a crewman of Panamanian-flagged ships of the shipping company.

Explaining the motive of his coming over to the North, he said:

I longed for the North when I learned that all the people in the North live an equal life without any worry, bringing their hope into full bloom and enjoying all social benefits including free medical care.

When I was kept in prison for one month in 1989, a student who was in my ward told me that the North is a genuine society which values people most. And, reading books about the activities of Kim Su-kyong during her stay in the North and her ground of the intermediate appeal and so on, I keenly felt that what he told me was true, the defector said.

South Korean Defector Speaks at Roundtable

SK0803111891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—A roundtable talk with Mun Chin-kuk who worked as a missionary on the evangelical ship "Hanna" belonging to the Immanuel Missionary Council in Seoul, South Korea, before defecting to the northern half of the country, was arranged by the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland at the People's Palace of Culture on March 7.

Present there were religionists in Pyongyang and a reporter.

The main topic of the talk was the reunification movement of South Korean Christians.

Recalling that the South Korean "Christian Council of Churches" recently released an appeal on national reunification and peace calling for the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces from the Korean Peninsula, the elimination of nuclear weapons and the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, Mun Chin-kuk said: I think this is an expression of the unanimous idea of the Christians and all other religionists of South Korea.

The South Korean Christians oppose the "unified channel of dialogue claimed by the authorities and contend that exchanges should be realised between religionists of the North and the South to build up confidence, he said, and continued:

They also demand that the anti-democratic laws such as the "National Security Law", an obstacle to reunification, be abolished.

Reunification is the life and soul of our nation and without it our nation cannot live, he added.

He further said:

While studying the new proposal for national reunification put forward by the great President Kim Il-song in his New Year address, I could hardly calm my thumping heart because the proposal indicates a short cut to reunification, the life and soul of our nation.

Our country, he noted, should be reunified at an early date by means of founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo proposed by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

I have come to the North the genuine pace-setter in the reunification efforts, to live a worthy life as a Christian and a member of the nation, he declared.

Happy, indeed, are the people of the North who live in a land where residential houses are provided without charge, rice is supplied at a cheap price and education is free, he said, and added: This is an ideal society which has been desired by mankind.

The singlehearted unity of the people in the North represents the real picture of Korea, he said, adding:

I would like to loudly tell the world that the earthly paradise that the Christians have longed to see for thousands of years is the North under the socialist system.

Analyst: No Tae-u 'Scheming' on Elections

SK0803052391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—No Tae-u in his "televised speech" on March 5 said local elections in cities, counties and municipal wards will be held on March 26, separate from large constituencies for major city and provincial councils to ensure "clean and fair elections".

His "speech" is nothing but another expression of the fascist arbitrariness against public opinion and a boloney of the crafty and truculent dictator intended to stave off the present-day ruling crisis and remain in power indefinitely, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says, and continues:

By carrying out early "elections" at a time when the "Team Spirit" war game is under way, No Tae-u attempts to force violent and fraudulent elections in a horrible atmosphere, with the people bound hand and foot, so as to have his running dogs elected in large number and lay foundations for a long-term office.

The dissident and democratic organizations and broad circles of South Korea have launched a powerful "movement for the resignation of No Tae-u", branding the No ruling group as a "corrupt regime," "corrupt National Assembly" and "corrupt Democratic Liberal Party".

In scheming to force early divided "elections" unilaterally, claiming "rights vested in the government", No seeks to hush up the Suso housing scandal and dull the people's anti-No fighting spirit.

No Tae-u announced that the local assembly elections will take place separately, the basic elections in March, while leaving the date of voting in large districts unsettled. Lurking behind this is another intention of No Tae-u to, if he is driven into a more serious crisis in face of the anti-"DLP", anti-"government" struggle, use the "elections" for a political purpose to tide it over.

No's petty trick surrounding the "local assembly elections" only proves that it is impossible to win independence, democracy and reunification with No's corrupt regime, corrupt politics and corrupt DLP left as they are.

O Chin-u Sends Greetings to Soviet Counterpart

SK0803114191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Marshal of the Soviet Union D.T. Yazov, minister of defence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The message warmly congratulates him on his reappointment as defence minister of the USSR.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Soviet peoples and Armies will consolidate and develop in the interests of the two peoples, in the future, too, the message wishes him new success in his responsible work for increasing the defence capabilities of the country.

Japanese Organizations Demand DPRK-Japan Ties

SK0803051391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 6 (KNS-KCNA)—Japanese organisations are demanding an early establishment of Korea-Japan diplomatic relations.

Members of the Gifu prefectural 100-men committee for the early realisation of normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations went to the Japanese prime minister's residence on February 19 with a written request to Prime Minister Kaifu and urged the government to promote the talks in the spirit of the joint declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Liberal Democratic Party and Social-Democratic Party of Japan.

They said in the written request that the joint declaration of the three parties carries crucial points in improving Japan-Korea relations. They demanded that the Government of Japan earnestly promote the talks on the basis of the declaration.

They stressed that diplomatic relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should be established as early as possible for the interests of the Japanese and Korean peoples, too.

Rikizo Kobayashi, chairman of the Niigata Prefectural People's Council for the Promotion of the Establishment of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations, and its members February 15 called on the director of the Asian Affairs Department of the Japanese Foreign Ministry and handed to him a petition demanding the early establishment of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations addressed to Prime Minister Kaifu.

It is worthy of appreciation that the joint declaration of the three parties admits that Japan should officially apologize to the DPRK and pay compensation, the petition noted, and stressed:

Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations must be established at an early date in the spirit of the joint declaration of the three parties.

Sports Official Hints at Links With Taiwan

OW0803123291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Sapporo, March 8 KYODO—A top North Korean sports official has indicated that his country may consider establishing sporting ties with Taiwan, sports sources said Friday. This is the first time a North Korean official has mentioned sports exchanges with Taiwan. The two countries have no diplomatic ties.

The official's comments follow Secretary General of the Taiwan Table Tennis Association Chou Lin-cheng's earlier expression of hope for such exchanges with North Korea. The positive talk has fueled speculation on the two nations directly and actively making contact during the April 24 to May 6 world table tennis championships in Chiba, east of Tokyo.

The sources quoted the North Korean official, who is in Sapporo for the Winter University Games, as saying that having friendly relations with many other nations is Pyongyang's basic tenet. If some kind of proposal was made by Taiwan during the table tennis championships, North Korea is ready to take it home for thorough deliberation, the official was quoted as adding.

Signs of rapprochement between Japan and North Korea have been evident recently. Chang Shih-liang, a leader of Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party, visited North Korea in February to mark the first such visit by a party leader.

Visas for Taiwanese to enter North Korea have recently become available in Macao, the Portuguese colony near Hong Kong.

Chou had said it is only natural for Taiwanese table tennis players to want to play in North Korea, a country which excels in the sport. He said he wants to visit North Korea if Pyongyang issues him a visa.

Although North Korea's staunch alliance with mainland China restricts any moves to improve relations with Taiwan, ongoing rapprochement by South Korea and China and between North Korea and Japan is influencing East Asian politics, the sources added.

KCNA Review of 8 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK0803054791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—Dailies here today carry messages of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic on the 28th anniversary of the March 8 revolution in Syria and to Miguel Trouvoada on his election as president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

MINJU CHOSON dedicates one whole page to an article on the deep trust and love shown by the great leader President Kim Il-song for anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter Kim Myong-chun.

Dailies inform the readers that works of dear Comrade Kim Chong- il are widely studied and disseminated in foreign countries.

Under the headline "People's Boundless Praises of the Great Leader" MINJU CHOSON reports that the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il was grandly celebrated in some 80 countries of the world.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the publication of the work of Comrade Kim Chong-il "On Further Improving Party Ideological Work" (March 8, 1981) NODONG SINMUN carries an article and reports that party organizations at all levels are strengthening party ideological work in conformity with the requirement of the developing reality.

Econews of the press includes reports about brisk preparations for sowing in rural communities and big achievements made in freight transport by rail.

Dailies give an account of a function held on the occasion of March 8, the International Women's Day, and introduce happy life of the Korean women.

Given in NODONG SINMUN is an account of a national meeting of propagandists of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea.

It is reported in the press that diplomas were awarded to woman student Yim Su-kyong and martyr Yi Tong-su of South Korea who had been registered as honorary students of Wonsan University of Agriculture.

Papers inform the readers of a roundtable talk with Mun Chin-guk who worked as a missionary at the evangelical ship belonging to the Emmanuel Missionary Church in Seoul, South Korea, before defecting to the Northern half of Korea.

The head of state of Libya met with the DPRK foreign minister, and the chairman of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party with the Korean ambassador to his country, says the press.

Papers inform the readers that the DPRK team beat South Korea 10:1 at the ice hockey preliminaries in the Winter International Universiad and the Korean youth and children's art troupe gave performances before full house in France.

Representatives of broad strata of South Korea held an emergency meeting to take measures for a probe into the truth behind the case of privileged distribution of housing lot in Suso district and for uprooting irregularities, and dissident figures strongly called for the resignation of the present "regime", according to the press.

Press commentaries lay bare the sinister intention of No Tae-u to stay long in power by holding divided, surprise "local assembly elections" in South Korea.

Papers report about continued ground and aerial war exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers against the North.

It is reported in papers that mass rallies denouncing the aggressive "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises were held in different areas of the Northern half of Korea and the exercises were under fire in foreign countries.

NODONG SINMUN conveys voices of foreign public supporting the DPRK's new proposal for national reunification by means of confederation.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article entitled "Anti-Imperialist Independence Is Fundamental Principle of our Republic's Foreign Policy" and an article marking the 5th anniversary of the signing of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between Korea and Cuba.

Papers observe the 28th anniversary of the March 8 revolution in Syria.

The speaker of the Consultative Assembly of Iran said that his visit to the DPRK was very successful, and various organisations of Japan urged an early normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations, says the press.

Papers report that TASS denounced the interference of the United States in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union, and introduce an article entitled "Is It Leave-Taking Without Any Regret" which was carried in the Soviet weekly SOVETSKII PATRIOT No. 5.

Foreign news columns of NODONG SINMUN include reports that China stated it will not allow any interference in its internal affairs, the Chinese foreign minister visited Portugal and Spain, and Bush is scheming to impose "sanctions" on Cuba under the pretext of "violation of human rights" by Cuba.

Vietnamese State Planning Delegation Departs

SK0803090191 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] A delegation of the Vietnamese State Planning Committee headed by its vice chairman, Le Xuan Trinh, today returned home by airplane. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Yon Sung- hwa, vice chairman of the State Planning Committee, and Nguyen Van Trong, Vietnamese ambassador to our country.

Envoy Presents Credentials to Pakistani President

SK0803095491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Choe Su-il, the new ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary of our country to Pakistan, on 3 March presented credentials to the Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

At the talks, the ambassador conveyed greetings from great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Gulam Ishaq Khan.

Expressing deep thanks for this, the president asked the ambassador to convey to great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il his wishes for them to have long lives.

The president pointed out that he is opposed to all war exercises, including the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, and that the joint military exercise is exerting a negative influence upon the peaceful reunification of Korea.

He said that no military adventure can break the will of the people pursuing peace. He stressed that Pakistan will support the peaceful reunification of Korea in the future, too, and will support and welcome proposals for achieving national reunification in accordance with the desire of all Korean people.

The talks proceeded in an amicable atmosphere.

Agricultural Worker Propagandists Hold Meeting

SK0803051791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—A national meeting of propagandists of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea (UAWPK) was held at the People's Palace of Culture on March 6 and 7.

It discussed tasks facing the propagandists of the UAWPK in uniting the whole union rockfirm around the party and the leader and powerfully rousing the agricultural working people to the implementation of the new year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The reporter and speakers said that to uphold the guidance of the great leader and the party with loyalty is the most noble duty of the Korean people before the times and history and stressed the need for propagandists of the UAWPK to more energetically conduct ideological education to closely rally the agricultural working people and unionists around the party and the leader.

The meeting emphasized that ideological education in the spirit of living our own way must be strengthened so that all the members of the union can arm themselves firmly with the lines and policies of our party, apply them in their work and life and dynamically turn out in the struggle to implement the socialist rural theses with the Korean-nation-first spirit.

A letter to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] was adopted at the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, and officials concerned as well as propagandists of the UAWPK from all parts of the country.

Anti-Japanese 'Secret Bases' Discovered

SK0803105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—Three secret bases and eleven temporary secret bases used by small units and underground political workers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA] and three pieces of materials on their military and political activities in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle were recently discovered in North Hwanghae Province, Korea.

Secret bases and temporary secret bases were discovered over the vast area of North Hwanghae Province from Hwangju and Yonsan Counties south of Pyongyang to Tosan County near the Military Demarcation Line.

It has been proved that the secret bases were built there in the latter half of the 1930s and used till the liberation of the country by small units and undergound political workers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

The temporary secret bases were verified by detailed materials to be built by them in the first half of the 1940s.

The materials prove that small units and undergound political workers of the KPRA shot down a plane of the Japanese imperialist aggressors in a district of Sinpyong County in July 1945, attacked a police substation in Koksan County in July 1943 and took away weapons and overturned a lorry of the Japanese garrison on the Koksan-Yangdok road early in 1943.

The secret bases and materials, along with revolutionary slogan- bearing trees which were found earlier in North Hwanghae Province, clearly show that the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle of the Korean people was waged on a nation-wide scale, assuming tremendous depths.

NODONG SINMUN Article on National Pride

SK0703001291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0015 GMT 25 Feb 91

[NODONG SINMUN 25 February special article: "Making National Pride Endlessly Shine Under the Party's Leadership Is Our People's Great Pride]

[Text] Today our party has displayed its pride as a great revolutionary party which has registered immortal achievements before the times, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people.

One of the shining achievements our party has attained in the course of hewing out a long and rugged path under the banner of the chuche idea is that it has made it possible to endlessly display our nation's honor and dignity by upholding the great leader and that it has secured a solid guarantee for achieving national prosperity generation after generation.

In the rewarding process of carrying out the revolution, our party has grasped as their faith that our party is the only guide which makes the dignity of chuche Korea shine and leads the fate of the nation to the end. No force in the world can block the road of our people, who staunchly struggle with great national pride, or their confidence that our nation, under the leadership of the great party and leader, is the best.

1. The leadership of the party of the working class is of prime significance in pioneering the fate of the nation and making its dignity shine.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: The leadership of the party together with that of the leader is of decisive significance in pioneering the fate of the nation. The party of the working class is the headquarters of the revolution, which leads the fate of the nation, and the core force of society. It is by the party and the leader that a guiding idea, which indicates the path along which the nation should advance, is presented and embodied and that the chuche-oriented revolutionary forces of the nation are firmly secured.

To become an independent nation which pioneers its own fate and a proud nation which creates shining examples in the revolution and construction by bringing into full blossom and developing its national spirit, every nation should receive the leadership of a tested party. The greatness and dignity of a nation are linked to those of the party and the leader leading the fate of its people.

The struggle of a nation to defend its dignity and make it shine is arduous and complicated. Without the wise leadership of the party, which augments the power of the nation and unites it as one, there is no resolute will struggling against all types of reactionary forces, nor is there a steady maintaining of the existence of the nation in the midst of the grim vortex of history.

Taking the fate of the fatherland and the nation on itself, our party has made the dignity and honor of the nation endlessly shine under every circumstance. As they upheld the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song as the great leader, our people, who had been deprived of the country and had lived amid sufferings as slaves without their country, came to greet a glorious age and display their national dignity the world over.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song brilliantly accomplished the sacred cause of national liberation under the banner of the immortal chuche idea, unfolded the unprecedented golden age of prosperity in this land, and laid a firm foundation for eternal national welfare. The achievements which the respected and beloved leader has attained in drastically changing the position and status of our nation and in giving full play to its dignity are genuinely great. The struggle to make our national dignity and honor shine is precisely the work of defending these great achievements of the respected and beloved leader and inheriting and developing them for the ages to come.

This grand project linked to the future of the entire nation has been organized and led by our party. As a result, the chuche- oriented and national spirit of the Korean nation has been incomparably strengthened and the golden age of national prosperity has fully blossomed today, when we have reached the high peak of the 1990s.

The high dignity and honor of our fatherland and nation today and our people's deep-cherished spirit of our nation being the best are inconceivable without the revolutionary leadership of the party. Above all else, our party endlessly treasures national dignity and interests and thoroughly subordinates all party activities and projects to defending them and making them shine.

Under the conditions in which the revolution and construction are carried out with a country or a nation as a unit, the primary duty of the party of any country is to achieve the growth and development of its fatherland and nation. No activity or struggle of the party of the working class are conceivable without the struggle to defend and make shine the dignity and interests of its people and the nation. The firm stand of endlessly loving its nation and treasuring the dignity of the nation as its life is an important token of a revolutionary party in our era.

Giving top priority to defending the dignity and interests of our fatherland and nation under whatever circumstances is an inviolable iron-clad rule for our party, which adopts the chuche idea, the noble idea of patriotism, as its guiding idea. The spirit consistent in all struggles and activities of our party is that the fatherland and the nation cannot be bartered for anything and that no work in the world is more important than making national honor and dignity shine. With this firm stance, our party thoroughly directs all matters in the revolution and construction toward elevating the dignity and status of our nation to the highest level in the 1990's.

With a view toward consolidating chuche-oriented forces which are capable of pioneering the fate of the nation amid whatever storms, our party has vigorously accelerated the work of imbuing the party and the revolutionary ranks with the chuche idea. For the purpose of laying a solid foundation for the eternal prosperity of the nation, our party has concentrated its efforts on economic construction, adhering to the lines of the chuche-orientation, modernization, and the scientific orientation of the national economy.

The work of building the party, the state, the culture, the Armed Forces, and the external work, and all other projects in the revolution and construction are consistent with our party's lofty intention of trying to endlessly display national dignity.

In particular, our party, which regards national dignity and honor as the most invaluable qualities, has exerted every effort to resolutely defend national sovereignty. Concerning national sovereignty, it does not even make slight concessions. Even though it pays dearly, it faces and fights to the end all maneuvers to infringe upon national sovereignty. This is precisely our party's unwavering will.

Today's reality, in which the major imperialist powers are hell- bent on infringing upon the interests of small countries and on annexing them, clearly shows that it is very important for the party of the working class that is responsible for the country's fate to lead the revolution and construction with this patriotic stand.

Moreover, our party has constantly deepened the work of arming all people with a strong consciousness of national independence and with a great national pride. The consciousness of national independence is an ideological and spiritual source that makes it possible to achieve national unity, to strengthen power, and to devote everything to fighting for making national dignity shine. The people who have a strong consciousness of national independence, though their country is small, can defeat any powerful enemy and steadily maintain the nation's existence.

Just as man's value is defined by his ideological consciousness, the dignity and power of a nation depend mostly on how resolute the nation's revolutionary spirit is.

Our party has vigorously conducted the work of arming all people with a strong consciousness of national independence as a basic issue for deciding our nation's fate. Particularly important in this leadership of the party is its constant strengthening of the indoctrination work of imbuing our people with the spirit of the Korean nation being the best.

The Korean-nation-is-the-best spirit, to which our party adheres, is, in a word, the pride and confidence of the greatness of the Korean nation and a lofty ideological emotion which is manifested by a high self-awakened consciousness and the will to make the greatness of the Korean nation shine even more.

This spirit, which is mainly composed of the pride and confidence of being under the leadership of the great leader and the great party and the pride and confidence of living in the most superior socialist system with the great chuche idea as a guiding idea, is an encouraging banner enabling our nation to display its glory as an independent and dignified one. Whoever cherishes this spirit deep in his heart, not envying what others have or trying to model himself upon others, can carry out everything in his own style. Today all ideological indoctrination projects of our party are directed toward helping the party members and workers fully display the spirit of the nation being the best.

All ideological indoctrination projects of our party—such as the work of grasping the greatness of the party and the leader and the greatness of the chuche idea, the work of grasping the greatness of our nation through practical achievements in socialist construction, and the work of arming the people with the noble tradition created in the historic struggle of our revolution to establish chuche—have served as factors which have brought about great changes in the ideological and spiritual life of the party members and workers.

In particular, numerous works recently published by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—including the work "On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea"—have greatly contributed to instilling the thorough spirit of the nation being the best deep into the minds of our people.

Because of the specific nature of the development of history and geographical surroundings, our nation was greatly affected by flunkeyism for a long period of time. Today, when we carry out the revolution under the leadership of the great party, however, no legacy of flunkeyism and dogmatism is traceable, but only the spirit of trying to pioneer the future of the nation on our own is overflowing.

Without being shaken whatever and wherever storms may blow, fighting with the great faith and pride that our leader and party are great and that our fatherland and socialism are the best is our people's lofty trait.

The greatness of our party as the guide of the nation lies in having made our people, who were forced to suffer from enslavement and contempt in the past for the lack of their own spirit, a dignified people who live and fight with a strong spirit of national independence which nothing can break. Also, our party has strengthened the political and economic might of the country in all ways, so that our nation's high honor and dignity have been unreservedly displayed in practical life.

The honor and dignity of a country and a nation cannot be created with nothing; they are based on the overall might of the country. A strong national power is a substantial guarantee which makes it possible to become a dignified nation, which no one makes little of, and a powerful nation which exercises its sovereignty in a stately manner in the international arena. The power of a nation is might in all fields of social life, political, economic, cultural, and military.

Our party has consistently implemented the revolutionary lines of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense in the revolution and construction, thus making it possible for the power of the nation to be powerfully displayed in all fields of social life.

Our party's determination and will to make chuche Korea, which was founded by the great leader, shine generation after generation as an independent, self-reliant, and self-defending socialist power with an independent revolutionary regime, a solid self-reliant national economy, and invincible defense capabilities for smashing whatever aggressive maneuvers of the enemy are firm, unwavering, and invariable. Because our party leads the revolution and construction with this unshakable determination and will, our people are living and struggling in a revolutionary manner with firm faith in the future of the fatherland and the nation even under the situation in which the antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists are being intensified.

The characteristic of the conception and leadership of our party, which strives to powerfully display the might of the nation in all fields of the revolution and construction, is boldness and audacity.

In its urban and rural construction, our party has carried it out in an unprecedentedly gigantic scale to boast of the resourcefulness of the Korean nation. In developing science, technology, education, and sports, our party has struggled with a bold goal for elevating them onto a world level.

Today great monumental creations are being built in succession in many parts of the nation including the Sariwon potash fertilizer complex and Tongil Street. This is a brilliant fruition of our party's magnificent plans and bold leadership to more highly demonstrate our people's dignity and heroic spirit in socialist construction.

Indeed, our party showed through practical life with what faith and leadership traits the party of the working class, which has the responsibility for the nation and the people, should defend and glorify the nation's dignity. Because of this, the name of our party has become the symbol of our nation's dignity and honor and the banner of the invincibility of our fatherland.

2. Our party made immortal achievements, which will be brilliant forever in history of the fatherland, even amid the arduous struggle to defend and glorify the nation's dignity and honor.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our party has traversed along the road of proud victory and glory for 40-odd years in the past and made great achievements which will be forever brilliant in history.

On the road of leading the long and arduous Korean revolution, our party has accomplished many works for the prosperity of our nation. The achievements made by our party include truly comprehensive and rich elements from the issue of maintaining and developing the nation's guiding ideas to the issue of organizing the strong main force of the revolution and of laying a firm foundation for the everlasting prosperity of the nation as a reunified state.

Each of these great achievements is of vital significance in pioneering our nation's destiny and gives a precious lesson and experience to the people who are struggling for the nation's independence and prosperity.

The achievement made by our party in the course of the glorious struggle to demonstrate our nation's dignity is, above all, that it tenaciously defended the chuche idea created by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and illuminated it as a permanent guiding idea of our nation.

What road each nation takes is decided according to what guiding idea that nation has. Only the nation with correct guiding ideas corresponding to the demand of the time and to the aspirations and desire of all fellow countrymen, can traverse the road of prosperity and development and make an outstanding contribution to the development of the time.

The greatness of the nation resolves itself into the greatness of the guiding idea in the end. The dignity and honor of the nation are demonstrated by the might of the guiding idea.

Our people, who suffered painful vicissitudes in the past due to the lack of a correct guiding idea, have become a proud people who are confidently advancing toward socialism and communism along the most correct path since we accepted the chuche idea created by the great leader.

The great chuche idea is the life line of our fatherland and our people in the past and today. It is the most responsible and important work in permanently defending and glorifying the dignity of chuche Korea—the honor of the Korean people—to tenaciously defend and glorify this life line. This very cause, which is related to the destiny of the nation, has been brilliantly resolved by our party.

Our party vigorously demonstrated the truth and greatness of the chuche idea in the history of the ideology of mankind, and constantly developed and enriched them. Thus, our party enabled our people to demonstrate the honor of the nation as the most proud nation which is carrying out the revolution without any deviation by cherishing the great guiding idea of the time.

Today our fatherland is fully demonstrating its invincibility as the nation of the chuche idea and a model socialist country because of our party's leadership. Our people take great pride in being the people with a strong sense of independence, lofty revolutionary spirit, and single-hearted unity because our party implanted the truth of the chuche idea deep in the hearts of the party members and workers.

We cannot praise too highly the achievements of our party which has made the chuche idea shine endlessly as our nation's only guiding ideology and has turned it into a great reality. There are many kinds of ideology, ideals, doctrines, and assertions in the world. However, history does not know of any nation other than ours which is pioneering its destiny confidently with the thorough revolutionary ideology which calls for the continuation of the revolution until the complete realization of the chajusong of the popular masses and with the completed revolutionary theory which scientifically and comprehensively elucidates the road to national liberation, class liberation, and human liberation.

This great glory and pride are the national glory and pride which can be enjoyed only by our people, who live under the great party and leader in the fatherland where the immortal chuche idea is found. Therefore, our people regard having the great chuche idea as their most precious asset and their greatest pride, and endlessly add luster to our party by highly praising its achievements.

Our party achievements in the struggle to add luster to national dignity and honor also lie in the fact that our party has realized the firmest wholehearted unity with the entire society and has strengthened its might in every way. As our party has elucidated, unity is the way for the nation to grow and prosper, and division is the way for the nation to ruin itself. The excellent traits and talents and the brilliant national characteristics which the nation has can only be strongly exerted when the entire nation is united. Therefore, each nation makes continuous efforts to find the genuine core of its national unity and to unite firmly around it.

Longing for national unity through the lessons learned in the course of a long history, our people came to have the core of unity by upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the head of the revolution, and they have been able to embroider the proud victorious history. It is the firm wholehearted unity that has enabled us firmly to adhere to the sovereignty of the country and the national dignity overcoming the many stern trials leading the country to the grim fate of life or death and to attain great victory always with great confidence.

The fact that the source of national dignity rests not with the size of the territory and the population but with unity has been thoroughly proven through our nation's modern history. Our party has put forward adhering to the wholehearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses from generation to generation as a fundamental problem connected with the nation's future destiny, and has continuously deepened this work. Thanks to our party's leadership, our unity today has been further strengthened as the most solid wholehearted unity in which all the people are united in one life and share the same destiny to the end, as the noble moral and volitional unity in which the leader and the people are firmly united in warm comradeship and revolutionary fidelity, and as a strong unity in which the entire society moves as one with one objective. Our party has achieved indestructible unity and cohesion unprecedented in history—the great unity in which thousands of people speak with one voice and thousands of ranks walk in perfect unison—and strengthened our revolutionary ranks and the might of our society in every way. This is the great historical achievement our party has made in the struggle to add luster to the national dignity.

The wholehearted unity which has been strengthened in every way under the leadership of the party is the fundamental factor that gives birth to all the miracles of modern Korea and the indestructibility of our nation. Because our people have indestructible unity and cohesion, they are winning glorious fame as a dignified nation which adheres firmly to national sovereignty generation to generation whatever tempestuous trials overtake them and as a powerful nation which creates continuous epochal miracles and exploits in the revolution and construction, crushing the enemy's antirevolutionary offensive with a revolutionary offensive. Many people of the world now cannot help being envious of the wholehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks, and they admire our people for their strength in organization and discipline and for their strong collectivist ideas.

With the single fact that the entire party and all the people have achieved steel-like unity and cohesion, we can feel from the bottom of our hearts our dignity and honor in having been born Korean. Together with our revolutionary ranks' single-hearted unity which is being more firmly deepened with each passing day under the wise leadership of the party and the leader the honor and dignity of our fatherland and nation will be enhanced on a continuous basis.

Our party has led our people to become a dignified people who greatly contribute to developing the era of independence by invariably holding aloft the banner of the revolution, the banner of socialism. Precisely herein lies another exploit of our party which has lifted our nation's dignity and position onto a high plane. Advancing toward socialism is precisely the aspiration of mankind and the main stream in the development of history. The national dignity and honor of the people of our times can be glorified only amid the rewarding struggle which actively contributes to the cause of socialism. The national honor, which advances the ideal of socialism to greatness through an active and stubborn struggle and which, through this, gives faith and courage to the people carrying out the revolution, is most valuable.

The great national dignity and honor that our people enjoy today are the boundless dignity and honor of building a most superior and unique socialism and resolutely safeguarding and defending it. That our people can have such great honor today cannot be contemplated apart from the tested leadership and achievements of our party, which has creatively pioneered the road of socialism, the road never before trod by anyone. By thoroughly implementing the chuche-oriented line and policy of socialist construction without the slightest degree of trepidation and with the firm conviction that the only genuine road for national prosperity and development is the road of socialism, our party has most successfully built the socialism for which numerous revolutionaries and people have sacrificed their noble lives.

The socialism of our own style that our party has built and is adding luster to is not only a genuine society for the people in which everything serves the people, but is also a most viable society which is constantly developing on the firm foundation of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense. Today, our people are advancing with certainity along the road of chuche that they have chosen and with the high dignity and honor of socialism our own style which our great party leads.

Clamoring about the so-called crisis of socialism, reactionaries, including the imperialists, today stop at nothing to break up the people's firm faith in socialism and make them the victims of corrupt capitalism. However, our people are not afraid of any antisocialist maneuvers by the imperialists, nor are we shaken by them. As the imperialists go berserk in desperation, our people will be more firmly determined to consummate the cause of socialism to the end, holding higher the red flag of the revolution and vigorously singing the songs of struggle and advance. This is precisely the firm determination and will of our nation.

The lofty honor and dignity of our people, who perform the heavy duties assigned to them by the times and history while rallying firmly around the party and the leader with such indomitable will and revolutionary principle, cannot be infringed upon. Indeed, our party has seen to it that a great change has occured in the situation of our nation and that luster has been added to the nation's dignity in all fields in a short period of time, which is nothing but a moment in the nation's history of 5,000 years. These great acheivements will shine forever along with the glorious history of the era of the Workers' Party.

Resolutely defending our nation's honor and dignity and glorifying them generation after generation under the leadership of the party and the leader is the lofty national duty of all of the people. The generation of the nation is constantly inherited, and the struggle to enrich, strengthen, and develop the country and the nation is to continue. All party members and the working people should cherish deeper in their hearts the spirit that our nation is the best and should devote their all to the struggle to add luster to the honor and dignity of the country and the nation.

We should first of all cherish deeper in our hearts the great national pride and honor of advancing along under the guidance of the glorious party center, holding the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem. The primary nucleus in our people's spirit that the Korean nation is the most outstanding nation is the pride and honor of holding in high esteem the great leader as the father and teacher of the nation. In the course of pioneering the distant and rugged road of the revolution, our people not only have mastered as their firm faith that apart from the great leader there exists neither honor and dignity for our fatherland and nation nor a bright future, but have also become the proud people who have internalized loyalty to the respected and beloved leader on the loftiest plane.

The firm faith boundlessly to revere and hold in high esteem the respected and beloved leader, who is the glory and happiness of the fatherland and the nation, and to resolutely safeguard and defend the high prestige of the great leader; the invariable determination and will to uphold and follow, with loyalty, the leadership of the party center and to eternally add luster to the immortal achievements of the great leader—this is precisely the noble ideological emotion that our people cherish deep in their hearts today. We will staunchly struggle along the road indicated by the party and the leader with such faith, determination, and will, and will endlessly demonstrate the honor and dignity of the fatherland and the nation.

To add luster to the dignity and honor of our nation, it is imperative to hold aloft the party's slogan, "Let Us Live Our Own Way," on a continuing basis. The slogan, "Let Us Live Our Own Way" is a powerful weapon which makes it possible to firmly defend the heritage of our nation and a great banner of struggle which guarantees eternal national prosperity. Reflected therein are our nation's spirit of trying to live in the correct way and without being subordinate to anyone and the firm determination and will of the Korean communists and people to pioneer to the end the destiny of the nation with their own strength.

The only way for all the people to have the spirit of firm national sovereignty and to continuously sustain the spirit of chuche-based national independence is the way of living and struggling in our own way. All party members and the working people should more thoroughly establish the ideological viewpoint of our own style—that is to say, the way of thinking of our own style—and should firmly adhered to the principle of solving all problems arisisng in the revolution and construction in conformity with the specific situation of our country and with the demands of our people.

Our party's line and policy, which embody the great chuche idea, are the only standards that distinguish our style from the capitalist style and are also a program for living in our own style.

All party members and the working people should properly grasp and understand our party's line and policy, should act according to them, and should unconditionally and thoroughly implement them under any circumstances. We should continuously and steadily push ahead with the work of arming ourselves with the spirit that the Korean nation is most outstanding. When all party members and the working people properly carry out party building, government building, economic construction, and cultural construction according to our own style by displaying ever higher the spirit that the Korean nation is most outstanding, the honor of our fatherland and nation will be more vigorously demonstrated in all fields.

A boundlessly bright and promising future has unfolded before the future path of our fatherland and nation. Because of the existence of the wise leadership of the great party and so far as the immortal chuche idea brilliantly elucidates our future road, our nation will continue to shine its brilliant rays as a great and dignified nation not only in the nineties of today but also in the 21st century.

NODONG SINMUN Essay on 'Pride of Era'

SK0703004291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0710 GMT 11 Feb 91

[NODONG SINMUN 11 February political essay: "Pride of Era"]

[Text] There is great pride in a great era. The greatest pride of the people in history is that of living in a great era. Today our people live and struggle in a revolutionary manner with endless pride in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: Today our people live in the most glorious era of struggle in the long history of our nation.

What do we intensely feel in the warm breath and beating palpitation of our people who live in this era of the Workers' Party—the age of a sacred revolution in which we brilliantly inherit and consummate the chuche revolutionary cause, pioneered at the top of Mt. Paektu, generation after generation while upholding the great leader and following the glorious party, the era of proud creation and construction in which great projects, unprecedented in thousands of years of history of our fatherland, are conceived, bold operations are unfolded, and immortal achievements are registered, and the age of glory in which unique man-centered socialism blossoms and national dignity and resourcefulness shines with the invincible might of single-hearted unity displayed?

Construction workers of the Tongil Street, who had just finished the construction of another multi-storied apartment building when the snow of wishes covered the capital on the eve of the hope-filled New Year's day of 1991, found it difficult to hold back their touching feelings and could not leave the construction site for the time being.

What did they feel when they looked out into the night scenery of the capital with their great pride in having built many modern apartments in a single year while burning their great ambitions with construction work and with the hope that the laughter of the people, who would move into new houses before long, would overflow, when they saw resplendent lights from numerous monumental creations such as the Chuche Tower, the Arch of Triumph, the 1 May Stadium, the People's Palace of Culture, and others which make the huge metropolis a single monument, and when they saw bright lights shining from houses along Nakwon Street, Changgwang Street, Munsu Street, and Kwangbok Street as if they were glittering like stars in the sky and were talking about the happiness of the residents? What touching emotions did they feel at the sight of these splendid and spectacular scenes?

What they felt was their confidence of having achieved grand creations and reforms in this land, unprecedented in the history of our fatherland, and of having displayed national dignity and resourcefulness in single-hearted unity with great ambition, courage, and faith in the future.

Having pictures taken with these deep emotions on the spot where the flags of shock brigades were fluttering, construction workers of Tongil Street said as follows: How nice it is to have pictures taken in work clothes on the construction site! Looking at these photos in the distant future, we will take pride in the era in which we are living.

The pride in the era of the Workers' Party was not the touching ideological emotion of only the Tongil Street construction workers who were unfolding a heroic epic of the 1990's. Also, this pride in living in this great age was overflowing in the hearts of the Musan and Komdok working class which were struggling to effect upsurges in production on the first day of the New Year while asking themselves when they could be heroes if they failed to become heroes in the era of the Workers' Party, and in the hearts of Chaeryong peasants who were striving to greet a spring for a bumper harvest in the teeth of snow storms while saying that as the rural villages across the country had been surging with the fever of the campaign for 2,000-ri irrigational project, they were seething with the soil fertility campaign this year and that they could not find themselves tired with whatever hard work they did, when they thought of the struggle to beautify the fatherland with ever-lasting grand projects and to increase the asset of the country. In addition, the pride of carrying out the revolution in this great era was overflowing in the hearts of Hamhung girls, who responded to the party's call under a red flag on which words of the "Song of the Red Flag," which goes "You cowards, get away if you want to. We will defend the red flag," were inscribed, and in the hearts of retired soldiers who effected proud exploits in their initial march of the New Year with such burning determination as they made when they read out aloud their poem reading: (?Taehung), listen to our pledge to bring our shining life into bloom by devoting ourselves here.

When a monument is erected here, please be sure to record this year and date on it; we will regard this as the greatest citation for our sweat and exploits: This is what soldier-construction workers carrying knapsacks said when they were on the point of leaving for new work sites on the very day of the completion of the Sohae Lockgate.

We also warmly feel the pride of the people, who believe this era to be the most significant age, in these remarks of the soldier- construction workers who erected a grand monumental creation of the era of the Workers' Party—a world-renowned lockgate—in tens of ri of rough sea while heartily singing the song "The Fatherland Will Remember the Exploits of Our Soldiers."

The status of an era is assessed in history and manifested in the aspirations of the times and the life of the people. The era of the Workers' Party is the most sacred and revolutionary age in terms of its cause and ideology and the glorious age of which we will be boast for ages to come due to unprecedented creation and renovation.

This age is a rewarding era in which we can live the most valuable life for society, collectives, the fatherland, and the people. Even old anti-Japanese fighters, who experienced the glorious times of the anti-Japanese struggle for national liberation, proudly say that there has never been a more glorious age. And the heroes during the period of the great Chollima upsurge, who lived in the era of proud renovation after the war, say that there has never been an age of more rewarding creation and construction. In this way, our age is an era of great revolution and rewarding struggle and exploits.

Furthermore, youths with the most beautiful ideal and ambition say that they love the Workers' Party, and students in neckties of the Juvenile Corps exclaim how beautiful this era is. Like this, our age is an era of jubilation.

The history of our fatherland dates back thousands of years. However, there was no time when all people unanimously extolled their age as the most shining era in history and brought their revolutionary life into bloom.

Natural springs flow on their own, and flowers give forth their fragrance by themselves. However, an era of exultation does not unfold of itself. An era is like its leader. When the leader is great, an era is also great.

An old scholar at the age of 80, who has devoted his life to studying history, East and West and ancient and modern, has said that the conclusion of his study of history and his experience of life is that if there is a great leader, a great era is created; that our era is the most shining age in our history because we uphold the great leader and the great leader [yongdoja].

A great age is an era where the great leader is upheld. Pride in an age is pride in the leader. When the leader is great, the idea, philosophy, ideology, struggle, and achievements of the era are great. When the leader and the party are great, the revolution is to be ever-victorious; the fatherland is to grow powerful and prosperous; and the dignity of the nation is to shine.

Let us recollect the great pioneering era of the Korean revolution and the era of the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

In the history of man, which extends over a long period of time, when did the sacred chuche era and the independent era of safely realizing man's independent stand and attitude and creativity start? When did our people start to create a new and great history by uniting with one mind through the possession of one central point and by singing that our nation is the greatest in the history of our fatherland, which goes back thousands of years? That is from the time when we started to uphold the great leader [suryong], the great leader [yongdoja].

On the emotional day when for the first time in our history we came to greet the great leader, the youth communists named the great leader as the sun and loudly sang a song of a new star that brings about a new dawn in the skies of the dark night. In this joy and glory of the youth communists we feel in our hearts the great pride of the nation upholding the great leader.

A long-living star of Mt. Paektu has risen. It is illuminating the 3,000-ri of Mt. Paektu. General Kim Il-song is the sun of the nation. Why don't you shout and take pride in General Kim Il-song whom you, Korea, the nation, have born?

In the documents bearing slogans of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle era that are continuously being discovered throughout the nation today, we are able to vividly embrace the spirit of the great era that highly upholds the great Comrade Kim Il-song as the revolutionary leader. These can be seen in each letter of the slogan.

The pride of our era of today and the era of the WPK is a pride of our party which highly upholds the great leader and brilliantly succeeds and completes the chuche revolutionary cause. The era of the WPK is a glorious and brilliant revolutionary era and a worthwhile struggle era which is carried out by upholding our party.

This makes our hearts overflow with endless pride whenever we fully feel the pride of being a member of the Korean nation, whenever we see the impressive reality of achieving brilliant reforms and significant events, and whenever reading complicated world news from the papers every morning. This is also so whenever we recollect the road of victory which we have walked according to the great leadership, whenever we think about the road we are to follow in the future, and whenever we listen to the laughter of the children who are living in happy homes while thinking of their bright future. This is a proud thought that shows that we have a great party.

There are the words of an old fighter who upheld the great leader from the early days of the Wangching era and walked the long road of the revolution. When the song, "Ten Million Ri Following our Leader, Ten Million Ri Following the Party," came out, the old fighter was not able to sleep because he was feeling excited over the fact this song expressed his very thought.

He expressed his feelings of living in this era by saying: "Every morning before I start my work, I look where the office of the party Central Committee is situated. Then, I am filled with joy and my whole body seethes with courage, just as I felt when I first upheld the great leader."

This is not just the feeling of our people. Sometime ago a famous politician of another country visited our country. How can Korea advance and advance again by highly upholding the banner of the revolution and socialism without the slightest wavering amidst the ruthless adverse wind? How can Korea achieve remarkable reforms and creations in all fields of the economy, culture, and construction amidst the difficult condition of standing face to face with the U.S. imperialists? How was Korea able to achieve the invincible and great single unity?

This politician who came to our country with this kind of impression was not able to refrain from admiration over Korea's reality and said: "For me, a politician, to show admiration before Korea's reality is showing admiration toward your country's great party."

The party is the torch of the era, the supreme brain of the revolution, and the heart of the society. The party is a decisive element in determining the fate of the country and nation and the success or failure of the revolution.

Whether or not the banner, which was highly upheld by the leader during the days of pioneering the revolution, can be invariably safeguarded on the road of struggle, which is continuing over generations amid the imperialists' grave constant challenges and various trials and difficulties laid before us, entirely depends on the rule of the party.

Whether the nation and the people can demonstrate their dignity and might by cherishing faith in certain victory and conviction in the future or they dash this way and that, falling into anxiety and pessimism, also finally depends on the leadership of the party.

Our era led by our party is the era when our people inherited the revolutionary cause pioneered at the sacred Mt. Paektu and are victoriously accomplishing it by highly upholding the immortal chuche idea as an everlasting guiding ideology. This is the era which is illuminating with unique socialism in which everything serves men. This is the era when a proud picture of gigantic creation and construction unprecedented in history is being unfolded by the people's boundless strength and creative power.

Our party is leading the revolution by always embracing Mt. Paektu and hearing the sound of Paektu's snowstorm. Our party designs and carries out even a work of today by looking ahead into after several hundred years and several centuries. Our party has achieved indomitable unity and cohesion with politics of trust and love.

Our party is great for its ideas, lines, faith, and courage. Our party is great for uncommon leadership art and immortal achievements. Our party is a motherly party with benevolence without which all the people cannot live—even a moment. Our people know no greater party than ours.

Without the greatness of the WPK, no one can think of our revolution, which is victoriously advancing along the road of chuche by breaking through various storms and of dignity and bright future of the fatherland and the people.

Without the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] and his leadership, no one can think of our indomitable single-hearted unity between the party which is struggling by dedicating everything to the people and by upholding the slogan, "We serve the people," and the people who are advancing by cherishing the slogan, "What the party decides, we will do," as their faith and by loyally upholding the party's leadership.

Without the party's call, no one can think of the rosy [nangmanchok] shape of our society where the songs of creation and construction are loudly resounding everywhere by upholding the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and where the the people's happy songs are overflowing, and no one can talk about all gigantic innovations of our era.

A poet said a long time ago that beyond the greatness, there is infinity. Indeed, our party has infinite greatness which no one can totally measure.

Today our people's hearts are seething with a single aspiration and passion to contribute to the cause of this era by cherishing lofty pride in the great era and in the great party. Only cherishing the pride does not mean that one is living in the great era. By making contributions to the cause of the era, the people can be conscious of the life they are living in the proud era and of their honor. The great picture of the proud era and a most valuable life of the people living in this era lie in contributing to the cause of the era.

"Let us contribute to the party's cause by loyally upholding our party!" This slogan is the goal and passion of life, powerfully inspiring the hearts of all of our people. This is a breathing of Korea which is glorifying the grand socialist march of the nineties with heroic struggle and exploits.

In the nineties—a significant historic turning point—our party is waging a bold and large-scale operation with a profound plan to make the 1990's a most brilliant era in history of our fatherland. Our party is inspiring the entire party, all the people, and the entire Army to a new heroic exploit.

It is our party's decision in the nineties to build a lively society full of revolutionary spirit, where the song of creation and construction is loudly resounding, by further consolidating and developing the socialist system in our country, to build a sound and rosy society filled with flowers of the people's happiness, and to build genuine socialist society envied by all people.

This was the very sentiment of the participants who received such a profound decision by our party with deep emotion in the building of the party Central Committee in the wake of the first march of the nineties.

How great and heart-warming this decision is! Contribution to the party's cause, even to a minor degree, means a brilliant life in the era of the Workers Party.

We know very well about the era of the Workers Party in which we are living, and regard contribution to the party's cause as the greatest honor. We regard contribution to our party's cause, even 0.01 percent, as an endless honor and happiness. Making contribution to our party's cause by cherishing pride in the great party means loyally upholding the party's ideas and decision and excellently contributing to accomplishing such ideas and decisions even to a minor degree.

All works at every work site are outposts assigned by the party and are a sacred work to bloom the party's plans. In our society, they are all worthwhile works which contribute to the party's cause, the cause of the era.

When we become the permanent companion, sincere sympathizer, and excellent adviser in building the party and its activities, and when we overcome all storm with our passion and share our destiny with the party by linking our breath to the party's great heart, we can contribute to the party's cause.

When the producer fulfills his duty as producer, guiding functionaries as functionaries, and guiding scientist and technician as scientist and technician, they will be described as being loyal to the party and contribute to our party's cause.

The man who thinks of our party and renders loyalty to the party even while cutting a small screw beside a nameless machine, the man who cultivates the soil with pure conscience and desire to fill the nation's grain storehouse by producing even one more piece of grain, and the man who is striving to meet the party's expectations even while handling a test tube by turning pages of a book in the laboratory deep into the night and dedicating his passion and efforts to upgrading the nation's science and technology onto a high level at an early date, can be called the men who can excellently contribute to the party's cause by cherishing a pride in the great party and who are loyal to the party.

Let us become genuine creators and builders who dedicate themselves to the great socialist construction by cultivating even a handful more of soil and by laying even one more brick! Let us become genuine patriots who produce more and give benefit to the nation by saving even a gram of iron, a piece of coal, and a piece of grain! How can we call our life worthy if we cannot make any contribution to the great era—the era of the Workers Party—when the people are making immortal historic achievements?

We aspire to the brilliant life, together with this era. We aspire to the life that is immortal in history, together with this era.

Let us all carry out significant works of each day through the heroic struggle and exploits by rushing into the center of the era, which is seething with revolution and construction! Let us vigorously advance the revolution by blooming the party's plans and intentions through revolutionary practice and highly demonstrate the dignity of the fatherland and the people!

Snow is falling silently in the bright window in the building of the party center as if blessing the era of glory. Looking up at the bright light—the party's ray—which is guiding the great era and which is not extinguished even in the night, our people make a solemn vow: Let us glorify the great era!

South Korea

Embassy in Kuwait City To Reopen 9 Mar

SK0803083891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, March 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Embassy in Kuwait will reopen Saturday, nearly six months after it was closed, by Ambassador So Pyong-yong and two staff members, the South Korean Embassy in Saudi Arabia said Friday.

So and the rest of the embassy staff are still in Riyadh, where they are holding intense consultations with Kuwaiti officials about crossing the border and about security measures in preparation for traveling overland to Kuwait, a diplomat said.

The embassy, which is in Kuwait City, reportedly shows no signs of damage or plunder but has no water, electricity or telephone service, he said.

Kuwait is under martial law as Iraqi soldiers are rounded up, further delaying normal embassy operation, and it will be a while before Korean residents and construction workers can enter Kuwait.

So and the embassy staff fled to Korea in early September but maintained contact with the Saudi and Kuwaiti Governments. He will discuss flying Koreans back to Kuwait as well as food and water supplies for those who never left as soon as circumstances permit, the embassy officials said.

All but nine of the nearly 650 Koreans in Kuwait fled after the Iraqi invasion Aug. 2. The nine people were all confirmed alive by a Korean military medical team dispatched here.

Government To Seek Iraqi Compensation for Damage

SK0803044491 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Property damage suffered by Korean residents in Kuwait due to the Gulf War are estimated to be extensive. The government, therefore, plans to officially request Iraqi Government compensation through the United Nations.

When Korean Ambassador So Pyong-yong returns to Kuwait to resume his embassy duties, he will consult with the Kuwaiti Government and calculate the correct amount of damages. The government also has asked the Korean residents in Kuwait to ascertain the extent of their damage.

The government has queried the Republic on Korea UN mission on the necessary procedures and related materials to request the compensation.

Paper Views 'Bush Plan' for Middle East

SK0803001491 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 6 Mar 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Handling of Postwar and U.S. Role—It Should Not Adhere to Theory of Strength"]

[Text] Involved countries are busy with efforts to establish a new order in the Middle East, where the situation has become even more complicated since the Gulf war. U.S. Secretary of State Baker is now visiting the Middle East to begin the task of explaining the specific contents of "the new order for the Middle East."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Major of Great Britain, which led the military operations along with the United States, visited the Soviet Union and discussed with President Gorbachev the issue of establishing postwar order in the Middle East. In addition, the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council met to discuss forming a peacekeeping force, a force mainly composed of Egyptian and Syrian forces, instead of stationing Western and U.S.

forces in the Middle East. So it seems that a sharp diplomatic war for each country's interests begins.

On the whole, the efforts to establish a new peace in the Middle East lie both in taking comprehensive measures to guarantee peace in the Middle East and in undertaking postwar rehabilitation. It has been learned that as a step for such efforts, the United States is considering the "Bush Plan," similar to the "Marshall Plan" which was issued after World War II. Thus, our attention is focused on the "Bush Plan."

To establish peace in the Middle East region, the protracted confrontation between Israel and the Arab countries should be settled above all. In addition, the issue of the Palestinian refugees should be settled.

The Arab states do not trust the United States because it has overwhelmingly sided with Israel. Judging from an historical standpoint, unless Israel returns the Syrian, Egyptian, and Jordanian districts which it occupies, the Middle Eastern disputes cannot be easily settled. They would not be settled even if the United States stationed its forces in the Middle East. Still worse, stationing U.S. Forces in the Middle East may give rise to a much more complicated problem.

The Palestine issue is also complicated. A durable peace in the Middle East cannot be easily established until a place is set up for the Palestinian people to settle. The issue of the Palestinian people was a plausible reason for President Saddam Husayn to invade Kuwait. Still worse, the Gulf war has made the position of the Palestinian people more difficult. Therefore, it is urgently necessary to take firm measures to settle such an issue.

Because the destructions of Iraq and Kuwait are even beyond our imagination, it is considered that without the sincere joint efforts of the world's countries, it will take one generation to rehabilitate the destroyed facilities. If the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, and each Arab country attend only to the interests of their own countries, the postwar rehabilitation will fail, and a new element for dispute will arise.

Thus, the United States should not strictly adhere to Pax America, just because it led the Gulf war to victory.

If the United States makes a mistake in handling the postwar issue, it may be forced to drink a bitter cup, as the loser did. Certainly, the world is changing into one solely dominated by the United States. As Kissinger pointed out, however, if the United States continues to adhere to the theory of domination by strength, the U.S. diplomacy will lose "philosophical justness," that is, the very life of the U.S. diplomacy.

Government Prepared To 'Go It Alone' in UN Bid

SK0803060691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—If North Korea will not join the United Nations at the same time as South Korea, Seoul will go it alone and hope Pyongyang is stimulated to follow suit, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Friday.

"The current situation, in which North Korea exercises a virtual veto over our entry into the United Nations, can no longer be tolerated," he told reporters.

North Korea should drop its "senseless allegations," stop "distorting reality" and take a realistic attitude toward the issue of U.N. membership as soon as possible, Yi said.

Pyongyang insists that the two Koreas share a U.N. seat, which Seoul has dismissed as unrealistic. Both nations currently have observer status.

There was nothing new in what Yi said, but it is seen as a signal that Seoul will apply for U.N. membership this year regardless of Pyongyang's stance.

Asked if the unilateral entry was a "diplomatic card" to prod North Korea to resume high-level talks, he said: "It is no longer a matter that should be discussed in the talks unless North Korea shows more a realistic attitude. The matter has been discussed enough among working-level officials from both sides for the past year."

The application date for solitary entry "is under study in consideration of situations within the United Nations, and no concrete decision has been made about it yet."

Yi, dismissing North Korean claims that separate seats would interfere with unification, said: "On the contrary, it would promote unification. Taking into consideration our efforts toward unification, it really makes sense for both South and North Korea to enter the U.N. together in their efforts to unify the nation."

IZVESTIYA Shuts Pyongyang Office

SK0803081591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0738 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Government newspaper IZVESTIYA has closed its Pyongyang bureau and withdrawn its correspondents because of North Korean complaints about its coverage, a South Korean Government source said Friday.

The daily was under pressure to leave because of frequent articles urging Pyongyang to adopt an open-door policy and criticizing North Korean rigidity in the age of perestroyka, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

On Oct. 11, 1990, IZVESTIYA said the Korean war was started by North Korea invading South Korea, directly challenging the North Korean line that the South started the hostilities.

Pyongyang ordered the closure last December of NOVOSTI, the No. 2 Soviet news agency, and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, the young communists' newspaper, for criticizing North Korean society.

With the closures, the source said, the number of foreign news organizations represented in Pyongyang was reduced to six: three Soviet organizations—TASS news agency, PRAVDA and a state-run television network—and three Chinese organizations—XINHUA news agency, the PEOPLE'S DAILY and the GUANGMING DAILY.

The chill in press relations between Moscow and Pyongyang compares with the rapidly warming ties between Moscow and Seoul, where 61 foreign news organizations are represented.

NOVOSTI signed a news exchange accord with YONHAP news agency in November and has agreements with eight other South Korean news organizations. Another accord was expected to be signed by TASS news agency Chairman Lev Spiridonov and YONHAP President Cho Yong-chung in Seoul on March 14.

TASS Director Discusses Opening Office in Seoul

SK0803123091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1134 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—Lev Spiridonov, director general of the Soviet official news agency TASS, Friday said that his agency would open its branch office in Seoul as soon as the South Korean Government gives its permission.

"Both staff and equipment needed to open an office here have all been prepared. We hope we can open it as soon as possible," Spiridonov said in an exclusive interview with YONHAP News Agency.

The top official of TASS, however, refused to predict the exact timing of the opening. He is accompanied by Igor Derzhitski, sales and marketing manager, and Vladimir Koutchko, chief of TASS Tokyo bureau.

Spiridonov, 60, arrived in Seoul earlier in the day for an eight- day visit at the invitation of YONHAP News Agency, aboard an Aeroflot jetliner. He is to sign a news cooperation agreement with Cho Yong-chung, the YONHAP president, on March 14.

"The long-term news cooperation agreement would set a cornerstone for the promotion of better understanding between peoples of the two countries," he spoke in Russian through an interpreter.

Spiridonov served as first deputy editor-in-chief of the PRAVDA newspaper before he took office in TASS in November 1990. He also served as a first secretary of a Soviet Foreign Ministry department from 1960 to 1965.

Under the agreement, which replaces two previous memoranda, the two agencies can promote personnel and technology exchanges as well as expand the present regular mutual English news and picture services, which began in March 1989.

Asked about the impact perestroyka (reform) and glasnost (openness) have inflicted upon his agency, he said, "Drastic changes beyond your imagination have been witnessed in our editorial policy."

"Because all the previous regulations and restrictions were lifted, the Soviet press organizations are now placing top priority on things the ordinary people are most interested in," he said.

"Under a new press-related law introduced last year, in particular, every individual is now allowed to publish his or her own newspaper."

While staying here until March 15, he is to pay a courtesy call on President No Tae-u and meet with several political and business leaders.

Among them are National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, Prime Minister No Chae-pong and Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung, Samsung Group Chairman Yi Kun-hui and Hyundai Group Chairman Chong Se-yong.

No Tae-u: North 'Will Soon Change'

SK0803014091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Mar 91 p 2

[By staff reporter Kang Song-chol]

[Text] Pusan—President No Tae-u said yesterday South Korea should play a role in reshaping global political order in the wake of the Gulf War.

"We should pool our wisdom and strength to promote our national interests through active participation in the process of realigning the world order," No said during an inspection of the Pusan City government.

He, however, would not elaborate.

Predicting economic recovery worldwide, he said, the nation would see momentum for further economic growth if it copes wisely with world economic developments following the Gulf war.

Touching on inter-Korean relations, the President reiterated his view that a "decisive turning point" in relations between South and North Korea will come in the near future.

Sharing the view held by many South Korean and foreign scholars, he said, "The North, under pressure both at home and abroad, will soon change."

He called on city officials to do their utmost to ensure that the March 26 local assembly elections are held in a fair and just manner.

On affairs of immediate concern to the city of more than 3 million people, No said the government will complete the ongoing expansion of the Seoul-Pusan Kyongbu Expressway by 1993.

He ordered speedy expansion of Pusan port facilities and the promotion of a double-track electrified railway between Pusan and Ulsan.

The President promised Pusan Mayor Kim Yong-hwan financial support from the central government in promoting projects to improve the serious traffic situation in Pusan, Korea's second-largest city.

The projects include the construction of circular roads and additional subway lines.

The government will also support the development of an industrial high-tech research center in the Noksan district, the President said.

South, North To Exchange Lists of Team Officials

SK0803125991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1225 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea Friday agreed to exchange on April 10 lists of their officials to participate in the Sixth World Youth Soccer Championship in Portugal in June.

Players will be selected after tryouts in Seoul on May 4 and in Pyongyang on May 8 under an agreement reached in the second working- level meeting on Feb. 26.

In a liaison officials' contact at the truce town of Panmunjom, the two sides also discussed a schedule of meetings to settle detailed procedures for forming a single Korean soccer team and joint participation in the drawing for the championship's preliminary competitions. The two sides agreed to send delegates for the drawing, slated for March 15 in Lisbon, separately and have them meet in Lisbon.

Japan Presents List of Conscripted Koreans

SK0803090591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Japan has handed over lists to Korea containing the names of 90,804 Koreans taken to Japan for hard labor during its rule of the Korean Peninsula, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

The list, handed to the Korean Embassy in Tokyo on March 5, contained more than the expected 79,800 names, an official said.

It is the first time Japan has released a list of Koreans pressed into service for Japan during 1910-1945. Korea has asked for any other lists that may be found in the future to be handed over as well.

The list is on microfilm and will be flown to Korea soon, a second Ministry official said.

Government To Refuse North Letter to Dissidents

SK0803102491 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] With the approach of the beginning of a new university semester, elections of local governments in March, and negotiations for wage increases in the spring, North Korea announced that it will send letters to organizations of workers and students, including National Council of Labor Union [Chonnohyop] and National Council of University Student Representatives [Chondaehyop]. However, the government decided to refuse them because it considers that such an act by North Korea has impure motives, to instigate antisystem activities.

Northern Youth To Attend World Scout Jamboree

SK0803100391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0846 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Boy Scouts will invite 100 members of the League of Socialist Working Youth of North Korea to the 17th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea this August.

The Boy Scouts of Korea will send the invitations to the Youth League next week as Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on and Scout Governor Kim Sok-won have agreed to cooperate in seeking North Korean attendance at the world jamboree on Mt. Sorak.

Scouts from the Soviet Union and all the socialist countries of Europe have been invited to take part, but North Korea can only have observer status because it is not a member of the International Boy Scouts League, a ministry official said.

The Scouts will ask North Korea to send 20 youth leaders and 80 youngsters, and a letter will be mailed next week informing North Korea that an invitation will be delivered through the truce village of Panmunjom, he said.

In a related move Sunday, Vice Sports and Youth Minister Kim Yong-kyun asked Pak Myong-chol, his North Korean counterpart, to send a delegation to a jamboree conference in Sapporo, Japan. Kim met Pak at the Winter Universiade opening ceremony.

Kim Sa-hung, the ministry's director-general for international sports affairs, is in China to prepare for the ethnic Korean people's festival in September. He will contact North Korean organizations in China and urge participation in the jamboree.

North Said Seeking Japanese Funds for Asiad

SK0803014391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Mar 91 p 11

[Text] North Korea, host of the 1995 Winter Asian Games, is having much difficulty in preparing for them due to economic hardships.

The Communist country, which originally planned to invest $200 million in building various venues, is considering a partnership deal with Japanese resort companies to help prepare for the Games, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported yesterday from Sapporo, where the 1991 Winter University was being held, quoting a Japanese source who is familiar with North Korean affairs.

According to the source, who declined to be named, there are many ice rinks and ski slopes scattered around Samjiyon, including the ice rink used for the 1987 socialist countries' winter games.

However, most of them do not meet international standards required to hold the Asian Games in 1995, the source was quoted as saying.

North Korea seems intent on using the 1995 Games for political propaganda, considering an unnecessarily large indoor ice rink is to be built at Samjiyon, much larger than the 6,000-seat one in Pyongyang, the capital. This was to associate the Samjiyon rink with allegedly historic sites honoring North Korean leader Kim Il- song around the host city, according to the source.

The source also told Yonhap that construction of the oversized ice rink has been halted because of financial difficulties. North Korea cited as reasons for stopping construction heavy snowfall of up to five meters, which the source said is not really the case.

Chochongnyon, a pro-North Korean organization based in Japan, also said that North Korea has sent a delegation led by Yi Dong-ho, who is in charge of North Korea's winter sports affairs in the state physical culture and sports guidance commission, to Sapporo, Japan, separately from the North Korean team to the 1991 Universiade to seek Japanese who are willing to fund its construction of rinks and resorts for the 1995 Games.

Earlier, North Korea agreed upon sports exchanges with Japan possibly in an effort to lay the groundwork for the introduction of Japanese money into North Korea for the Games, the source said.

Ministry Asks Moscow for Service for KAL Victims

SK0803101591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0906 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea has asked the Soviet Union to allow a floating memorial service near Sakhalin Island on Sept. 1 for those who died in the downing of a Korean Air [KAL] jetliner by a Soviet fighter eight years earlier.

According to a Foreign Ministry official, the request was made on behalf of the victims' families but there has been no response from Moscow.

No: Asia-Pacific 'New Center of Development'

SK0803021091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Mar 91 p 2

[Report on interview with President No Tae-u by Soviet journal PROBLEMS OF FAR EAST—place, date not given]

[Text] President No Tae-u has said that nations in the Asia- Pacific region appear to be undergoing a process of implementation for a peace initiative proposed by Soviet President Gorbachev.

In a recent interview with the Soviet bi-monthly Far Eastern Affairs, No said the region has emerged as a new center of development.

"The Asia-Pacific region that stretches from Northeast Asia to Southeast Asia, and to Australia and New Zealand, has now emerged as a new center of development that will lead the world to a new era of prosperity" the President said. "The should be noted, however, that the stability and peace of the Korean Peninsula have always been essential to the security of this region."

He observed it seems that "the nations of the region are witnessing the process of implementation of the Asia-Pacific peace initiative President Gorbachev adumbrated in his speeches in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk."

He recalled he has proposed a "consultative conference for peace in Northeast Asia" to be attended by countries who have a major interest in the Korean Peninsula, including the Soviet Union.

"I put the proposal forward with a view to replacing the international structure of this region, which saw five major wars in a century, and where Cold War confrontations still persist, with a new structure of peace and cooperation," No said.

Just as Europe has found a "common house" for peace and cooperation, he said, the nations in this region also aspire for the emergence of a new order in this part of the world.

Because the Korean people suffered so much from territorial division and the Korean War (1950-53), he said, "our aspirations for peace are greater than any other."

He observed that fundamental change has yet to take place in the inter-Korean relations. "We can say that the Cold War glacier over the Korean Peninsula has finally begun to break with the establishment of full diplomatic relations between our two countries." "The Soviet Union," he said, is "full capable of taking the necessary steps to persuade North Korea to openly abandon its unrealistic policies.

Carbon Technology Contract Signed With Soviets

SK0803024191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—The Korea Academy of Industrial Technology (Kaitech) has signed a contract with the Graphite Institute of the Soviet Union for the technology to make an advanced carbon-carbon material, a Kaitech official said Friday.

In addition, Cheil Wool Textile Co., a subsidary of the Samsung Group, has signed a contract with Moscow electrod plant to commercialize the technology.

The contracts are part of an umbrella agreement for technology commercialization between Kaitech and the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology signed in December last year.

The technology, which the United States has refused to sell to Korea, is for an advanced material that can endure temperatures above 3,000 degrees celsius and has applications in making heat- resistant parts for space shuttles and rockets, building nuclear power plants and fabricating artificial heart valves.

Policy Set for Stable Prices, Competitiveness

SK0803031691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—External economic upturns following the Gulf war is likely to push South Korea's real economic growth rate above the year's target of 7 percent, Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu said Friday.

"It is possible economic growth will be somewhat above the earlier projection if industry takes advantage of export expansion, reconstruction and other postwar opportunities by intensifying its competitiveness," said Choe, who is also economic planning minister.

The state-financed Korea Development Institute made a similiar prediction last week, saying real GNP would grow up to 7.4 percent, but it is the first time a top government official has commented on an economic surge above the goal.

"But I don't think it is time to adjust the target, because postwar world economic changes will accompany both bright and dark sides and unpredicted factors are emerging at home," Choe said in a policy seminar organized by the Korea Economy and Science Research Institute.

Top economic priority, he said, would be placed on prompt restoration of economic stability through stable prices, industrial peace and high competitiveness.

"The most important price stabilizers will be stable wages and persistent frugality, as was seen during the Gulf war," he said, demanding large companies set a good example of stable wages.

Small, Medium Firms Increase Exports in 1990

SK0803033191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0205 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Small- and medium-sized companies increased their exports 13.6 percent last year to 29.581 billion U.S. dollars, while big firms could manage only 0.4 percent, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday.

Overall, exports expanded 4.2 percent.

Exports of small- and medium-sized companies accounted for 45.5 percent of the total value of exports last year, 65.016 billion dollars, up 3.7 percent over 1989, it said.

The smaller firms benefited from improved quality and technology, a Ministry official said. In particular, their aggressive participation in the heavy and chemical sectors was important in pumping up exports.

Smaller companies in the machinery industry boosted exports 92.5 percent, in the chemical industry 49.5 percent and in the electrical and electronic industries 26.3 percent.

Businesses producing primary products, however, experienced a drop of 11 percent, textiles 1.8 percent and plastic and rubber goods 0.1 percent.

Among smaller businesses, the ratio of chemical, machinery, steel and electrical exports has increased in recent years as light industries declined, he said.

Contract for Soviet Synthesis Technology Signed

SK0803100191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0820 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Korea Institute of Machinery and Metals (KIMM) has signed a contract with the Soviet Macrokinetics Institute to introduce and commercialize the Soviet technology for self-propagating high-temperature synthesis (SHS), a KIMM official said Friday.

SHS was developed by the Soviet Union in 1963, 10 years before the United States and Japan, and is used to create new products using heat generated by the materials themselves.

For example, combining titanium powder and graphite powder to make titanium carbonate is possible at room temperature with SHS, while conventional methods require a furnace, he said. SHS has applications in developing electronic goods, metals, medicines and semi-conductors.

The Macrokinetics Institute was established in 1987, primarily to do research in advanced materials, and has some 800 employees.

Talks on Air Agreement Due With USSR

SK0803100291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union will hold government-to-government talks March 11-14 in Seoul on conclusion of an air agreement, a Transportation Ministry official said Friday.

"At the moment, we are not sure of a successful outcome, but remarkable progress will be made since the two governments have succeeded in ironing out differences that emerged in the first talks, in Moscow last September," said the official, who demanded anonymity.

Discussion would cover, in detail, air route structures and the number of flights between the two nations, he said.

Korea will also hold air talks with Brunei, India and Romania from March 18-30, and ink air agreements with them, he added.

Candidates for Elections Allowed To Register

SK0803031491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—The flag dropped Friday on South Korea's first campaign race for local elections in 30 years with the government officially posting a public notice of the polling date, March 26.

Candidates for local councils in Korea's so-called small constituencies—small cities, counties and municipal wards—could register from 9 A.M. Friday, and the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) expects about 20,000 people to have signed up to contest the 4,304 seats when registration closes March 13.

The March polls are seen as a trendsetter for a string of upcoming elections—for big-district councils (provinces and large cities) later in the first half of the year, for general elections next spring, and for the presidential election toward the end of next year.

Attention is now on how closely the candidates, voters and political parties will comply with the government's call for "clean and fair elections."

The first test is expected as soon as Saturday, when the opposition parties launch a month of rallies across Korea to denounce the government for the Suso housing scandal.

The scandal implicated government, municipal and presidential officials in influence-peddling and bribery, and prompted the early poll date for the first set of local elections, opposition parties say.

CEMC ruled in a deliberation Wednesday that the rallies would be considered illegal intervention in the local elections.

It is illegal for a political party to support a candidate or to campaign or in any other way take part in the elections, but the law is vague and the opposition plans to see how far it can push the limit.

The Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) and Democratic Party said Thursday they would ignore the CEMC decision.

PPD President Kim Tae-chung will set the example by touring the country and appearing at the rallies. Even if there is no reference to the local elections during the rallies, the effect is likely to be weakened public support for candidates aligned with the ruling camp.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) says it will not even hold rallies for its members, which are legal, during the campaign period, but is said to be encouraging candidates close to the DLP through chapter offices.

Party sources predict pro-DLP candidates will have a 70 percent success rate at the March 26 elections.

The deciding votes are expected to come from Seoul and nearby metropolitan areas. The solid support for the opposition in the Cholla Provinces will be challenged by the popularity of the ruling side in other provinces.

Civic Groups Plead for Clean Local Elections

SK0803091891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0551 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Civic groups pleaded Friday in a unified statement for the government and the public to make the March 26 elections clean and fair.

"There were always disputes in past elections," noted Kongsunhyop, or the People's Committee for Fair Elections, in issuing the statement on behalf of nine organizations.

If the elections are tainted by unlawful campaigning and illegal government intervention, local autonomy itself will be endangered, it warned. Koreans elect their first local councils in 30 years on March 26 in small cities, counties and municipal wards.

Addressing the government, the groups urged officials to avoid any activities that may be interpreted as intervention and said the crackdown on illegal campaign activities should be applied blindly, without exception.

Addressing the people, they urged candidates to see council seats as "voluntary, non-paying jobs" and drop out if they received favors or threats from local organizations, and called on voters to be watchdogs against bribery and all other illegal activities.

DLP Factions' 'Conflict Over Party Hegemony'

SK0803024491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Mar 91 p 2

[From "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] The three factions in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] are shooting suspicious glances at each other again due in a large measure to conflict over party hegemony.

Some followers of Kim Yong-sam, DLP executive chairman, had frequent get-togethers to the embarrassment of factions led by President No Tae-u and Kim Chong-pil.

In their gatherings, arranged by Rep. Choe Hyong-u, they agreed for the need to hold a national convention as soon as possible after the March 26 elections for local councils and revamp the party hierachy under the unitary leadership of Kim Yong-sam.

Their meetings prodded two other factions to respond with a series of meetings in which they reaffirmed their position that the demand by the Kim Yong-sam faction for total party hegemony is not acceptable.

DLP Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan Wednesday met with Reps. Yi Chun-kyu and Yi Han-tong at a restaurant and shared the view that the total control of the party should not fall into the hands of Kim Yong-sam until after a convention is held following the general elections next year.

Kim Chong-pil Criticizes Reunification Faction

SK0803060191 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 7 Mar 91 p 2

[From "News Behind the News" column]

[Text] In connection with the recent meetings among reunification democratic party [RDP]-faction lawmakers in the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil said on 6 March that "because these people commit such deeds, other people are becoming estranged from Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam."

He added: "Do such deeds help place Executive Chairman Kim on top?"

He criticized the meetings, even citing the names of lawmaker Choe Hyong-u, from the Tongnae, Pusan, B Constituency, and other RDP-faction lawmakers, but he attached little significance to them, saying: "Those people have failed to resolve issues but have aggravated them."

He also said: "I have frankly told Executive Chairman Kim that he must 'free himself from this faction.'"

He went on to say: "I think that Executive Chairman Kim will do so."

Chairman Kim also said that "people on the level of Yi Chong- chan, from the Chongno Constituency, and Yi Han-tong, from the Pochon-Yonchon Constituency, will rise consequently, and the same is true with the Party for Peace and Democracy."

He added: "It is a miscalculation to think that there would be a vacuum if the three Kims disappear."

In the meantime, following their 5 March meeting, lawmaker Choe Hyong-u and ten RDP-faction lawmakers again had lunch together on 6 March and exchanged views on the current political situation. Meanwhile, lawmaker Kang Sam-chae, from the Masan B Constituency, and lawmaker Choe Ki-son, from the Puchon South Constituency, and other young RDP-faction lawmakers have met daily. This is noteworthy.

PPD Plans Rallies To Protest Housing Scandal

SK0803071491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said Friday it would ignore a ruling by the Central Election Management Committee [CEMC] and go ahead with rallies to denounce the Suso housing scandal, starting on Saturday in Boramae Park in Seoul.

The election watchdog body ruled Wednesday that rallies organized by political parties to capitalize on the scandal and discredit the government during the campaign period for local elections were against the law because it could influence voters.

Party President Kim Tae-chung, countering the CEMC's ruling, said the ruling camp is exploiting the local elections in an attempt to obstruct rallies to denouncing the scandal.

"We will take our struggle to the streets unless the ruling camp opens a full-scale re-investigation, the National Assembly invokes its right to conduct a probe into state affairs and the government installs a special prosecutor to get to the bottom of the Suso scandal," Kim said.

Arguing that the ruling camp was trying to gloss over his party's struggle with the imposition of local elections, Kim said the PPD would hold rallies in 37 major cities from next week.

The minor Democratic Party said it intends to hold similar rallies during the campaign period in some 30 localities nationwide, adding it would pay little heed to the authoritative ruling of the CEMC.

Rep. Chang Sok-hwa, spokesman of the splinter party, said if the government books his party on charges of breaking election laws stemming from rallies, it would take it to court, contending the relevant laws are incoherent.

Meanwhile, the governing Democratic Liberal Party, denouncing the opposition's plans to go ahead with nationwide rallies, urged the parties to abide by the CEMC ruling.

Floor leader Kim Chong-ho said failure to comply with the CEMC verdict exposed the opposition's intention to inject a "political wind" into the coming elections.

Political observers are concerned that the dispute between the ruling and opposition camps may escalate, saying there is the possibility of a collision with the law-enforcement authorities.

The PPD has decided to offer pro-PPD candidates membership on the PPD local autonomy committee and give positive assistance to their campaigns.

Chapter chairmen have been told to escort these candidates to the district election management committee for registration.

The PPD's election strategy will be fiercely controversial as it can be interpreted as interference in the elections using loopholes in the law, which says party participation in local elections is illegal.

Political parties are not allowed to influence voters in the March 26 elections, though party campaigning will be allowed in elections in Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju, Taejon, Inchon, and Korea's nine provinces in June.

* KFTU To Participate in Local Elections

* Editorial Disapproves of Move

912C0127A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 12 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Is the Korea Federation of Trade Unions a Political Organization?"]

[Text] The Korea Federation of Trade Unions [KFTU] declared that it will participate in local council elections. The federation announced that it will carry out three activities: to support or oppose specific candidates by all the suborganizations under the Federation; to watch the election process in cooperation with other social organizations to ensure a clean election; and to nominate its own candidates and support their activities.

Accordingly, the federation ordered the political committees within its local trade unions to start their full operation from 11 January. It is also known that a selection process has begun for 100 candidates for basic self-government units and 50 candidates for wider districts.

The federation's announcement laid out a detailed plan. When it finishes the selection of candidates and registers them, the federation will in fact change its characteristics to a political organization. Through its activities of supporting its own candidates and opposing others who "neglected the interests of laborers," it will surface as an election campaign organization. During the process, arguments and frictions as to whether it violated the labor laws are expected to develop.

We are not in a situation to waste our time and energy. Our society is extremely unstable, and our economy is very vulnerable. That is why the people are carefully watching the federation's participation in local government elections. This editorial feels that we need to rationalize several viewpoints in relation to anticipated arguments and frictions as a result of the federation's participation in the election.

First of all, what kind of organizations are the federation and its affiliated trade unions? Article 1 of the current trade union law defines that the objective of the trade union is to improve the laborers' economic and social status, and to contribute to the national economic development by promoting the laborers' welfare and working conditions, while guaranteeing their three primary rights. The protection of trade unions and their activities by the Constitution and labor-related laws implies that the laborers' economic and social status should be practically enhanced through these laws.

It should be made clear that the trade union is an organization that promotes the laborers' rights and interests by means of legal procedures that equally protect the laborers and their employers, independent of Article 12 of the labor law that prevents the trade unions' political activities. The trade union is not an organization that can immediately become a political organization by disregarding the procedures specified by law.

Secondly, how would the federation appropriate funds necessary for its political activities? Aside from applying Article 12 of the labor law that prevents the federation from raising political funds from union members, and from using union funds for political purposes, the issue is whether or not the union members approved the appropriation of union funds for political purposes. Without the union members' approval, it is against the law to use union funds for political purposes, aside from Article 12 of the labor law.

Thirdly, whether or not the federation violated the local government election law is an issue. Article 41 of the local government assemblymen election law defines that only political parties and their candidates, head officials, liasion officers, and election officers, can participate in election activities. The federation's election-related activities, other than watch efforts for clean elections, will be against the election law.

Fourthly, it is self-contradictory that the federation asked for a legal interpretation of whether or not their planned political activities violate Article 12 of the labor law. The decision is not yet made, but the federation declared that it would participate in political activities, regardless of the outcome of the legal interpretation. If that is its original intention, it should not have filed a petition for a legal interpretation.

All the political problems arising from the real world are directly related to the laborers' social and economic problems. Therefore, the laborers' desire to participate in political activities will grow, and it may be impossible to suppress the growing desire. They should behave, however, within the boundary allowed by laws and regulations. It is a more practical way of approaching politics that they prepare for establishing a political party, after strengthening the relationship of different labor organizations. It is an editor's advice that now is the time for the federation to devote itself to pure labor movements, rather than to transform itself into a political organization, and jump into political activities that violate laws and regulations.

* Editorial Favors Political Action

912C0127B Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 14 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Trade Unions' Participation in Political Activities: Now is the Time for Political Circles to Discuss It"]

[Text] Despite the prohibition of the trade union's political activities by the current labor law, the Korea Federation of Trade Unions (Nochong) has attracted unusual national attention by disclosing its intention to actively participate in political activities by nominating candidates for a local council election. Meanwhile, the political circles' decision to review the possibility of allowing the trade union's participation in political activities is considered to be a noticeable change in their attitude of strictly prohibiting the trade union's political activities thus far.

Since our Constitution enfranchises everyone, we believe it appropriate to improve related laws and regulations to allow the trade union members to participate in political activities. Improvements should be made, however, on the premises that political activities should be carried out legally and that several basic principles have to be observed also.

Therefore, the federation should pursuade lawmakers to rationally revise labor-related laws, such as the trade union law, at the special session of the National Assembly scheduled for late January. The federation should restrain itself from hastily and unlawfully being involved in political activities.

The federation's plan for political activities is somewhat ambitious. It declared that it would nominate its own candidates for the local council election on the grounds that the laborers' rights, interests, and opinions have not been properly represented by the established political parties. The plan laid out the following activities: to put up 60 candidates for wider district elections and 100 candidates for basic unit assembly elections; to watch the election process for honest elections in cooperation with dissident and private citizen groups to promote democratization; and to promote activities to prevent corrupt individuals, who are believed to be against political, economic, and social democratization, from running for various local government elections.

In order for trade unions to carry out sound and rational political activities, an improvement should be made, first of all, to the existing trade union laws which prevent political activities by unions and their members. Article 12 of the trade union law says that trade unions shall not support specific political parties, engage in activities to help specific individuals win or lose in the election for public positions, raise political funds, or use union funds for political activities. It is a misunderstanding that only when these restrictions in Article 12 are removed can the trade unions and their members legally engage in political activities. Other related laws should also be revised. These laws include the National Assemblymen election law (Article 32, Clause 1) that restricts the union officials to being candidates for the Farmers' Cooperative Associations' officials, the local election law (Article 35, Clause 1), and the political fund law (Article 12, Clause 5) that prevents trade unions from contributing to political funds.

It is the editor's opinion that a "boundary of political activities" should be established when revising these laws. That is because the trade unions' activities can result in a profound impact and can influence the economy and society as well as politics, because of the vast number of members. Therefore, the boundary of activities for candidates and elected officers representing the trade unions for various public positions should be limited to promoting only rational improvement in the laborers' rights and working environments. If union members, who are elected public officers, try to promote political activities, it is against the fundamental objectives of founding the unions and might change their characteristics.

In order to successfully carry out the trade unions' political activities, the editorial strongly suggests that they observe the following basic principles. First of all, all their activities should be carried out within the legal boundaries and should not destroy social orders. Sometimes the employers' lack of understanding and irrational attitudes are causes of conflicts. However, just because the workers' ideas are different from their employers' or because the laborers' ideas are not properly reflected, the union members should not stage sit-ins, fasts, or illegal and violent acts.

Secondly, their activities should be carried out according to democratic principles. The democratic principles are represented by compromise and negotiation.

Thirdly, their activities should have distinct characteristics representing trade unions. They should not imitate the activities of established political parties and politicians. They should rather maintain activities that represent the interests of the laborers and working classes.

* Economic Cooperation Plan With USSR Viewed

*912C0123 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
23 Jan 91 p 7*

[Article by reporter Yu Chol-ki: "Meaning of the Joint Announcement Between South Korea and the Soviet Union on Economic Cooperation"]

[Text] The joint announcement consisting of 11 items made on 22 January as an outcome of the second meeting between official delegates from the Republic of Korea and the Soviet Union is interpreted as an indication of the start between the two nations of active economic cooperation and exchange, which have been evident so far only in words since the diplomatic relations opened.

The visible outcome of the current meeting, first of all, includes the finalization of the most important issue of a long-term loan to help the troubled Soviet economy and an agreement on detailed cooperative works encompassing wide areas including trade, natural resources development, science and technology, and the fishing industry. They also agreed to utilize various cooperative channels such as the newly established "Joint Committee on Cooperation in Economy, Science, and Technology," headed by deputy premier-level officers of the two nations.

This official agreement between the two nations is expected to provide private industries with a firm basis to accelerate the so-called "northern rush."

The amount of the long-term loan drew most attention from inside and out at this meeting.

According to the joint announcement, South Korea agreed to provide up to $3 billion over the next three years, consisting of $1.5 billion in terms of raw materials and consumer goods, $0.5 billion in deferred-payment export loans, and $1.0 billion in bank loans.

It is known that the Soviet Union originally requested more than $5 billion to ease their devastating foreign currency shortage. South Korea finally reached a compromise agreement after extensive negotiation. The long-term low-interest bank loan amount has been doubled to $1 billion from the originally planned $0.5 billion. The payment schedule of the loan has also been changed. It was originally planned that $1 billion would be provided each year over the three-year period from 1991 to 1993. According to the final agreement, $1.5 billion will be given in 1991 and the remaining $1.5 during 1992 and 1993.

It is expected that the $1 billion bank loan, made out from a syndicate of 10 big Korean banks, including the Korean Development Bank, to the Soviet's Foreign Economy Bank, will help alleviate the Soviet's foreign currency shortage problem. The government disclosed that the $1 billion bank loan will be guaranteed by the government with the approval of the National Assembly, because of concerns over a possible negative impact on the domestic banks' credit toward foreign nations.

The remaining $2 billion is a conditional loan, which will be used only to pay for consumer goods and plants that the Soviet Union purchases from South Korea. In other words, South Korea will sell consumer goods and plants to the Soviet Union in terms of a credit export for two to eight years, thus requiring no cash from South Korea.

Another noticeable outcome of this meeting is the finalization of detailed items of consumer goods to be exported to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets requested 63 items of consumer goods altogether, by adding 22 to the 41 items originally suggested at the first meeting held in Moscow last August. In response to their request, South Korea offered the following: a full quantity of 34 items including refrigerators, washers, televisions, and VCR's; partial quantity of 19 items including radios and sewing machines; no supply of 10 items including cigarette machines. The two nations agreed to have a working-level meeting in Moscow next month to discuss the supply procedure in detail.

In addition, the two nations decided to jointly promote seven projects, including the oil and natural gas development in Sakhalin and the coal development in Yakutsk from among the 22 natural resources development projects that the Soviet originally suggested. The government is planning to send a second study team to evaluate the natural resources as early as next month.

Another major outcome of practical importance is the temporary signing of the "Treaty on Fishery Cooperation between South Korea and the Soviet Union." This treaty opened the door for South Korea to participate in joint fishing operations in areas with rich fishing resources, such as the Bering Sea and the coast of Kamchatka Peninsula. Considering the trend of tighter restriction by the U.S. to fishing operations in the North Pacific, the treaty is expected to provide a new opportunity for the domestic deep-sea fishing community.

Meanwhile, economists, who have been closely watching the meeting, pointed out that the most significant outcome of this meeting is the materialization of active exchanges in science and technology between the two nations. Since the biggest obstacles that our economy is currently facing are the delay in technological development and the difficulty in penetrating the wall protecting science and technology in the industrialized nations, such as the United States and Japan, the establishment of the science and technology committee has a signicant meaning in that a door is open for direct import of world-class Soviet technology in basic science and the high technology area, although not in commerce yet.

Generally, the economic cooperation plan that the two nations just agreed on has a characteristic of a "venture capital," from which South Korea attempts to find a breakthrough in science and technology at the expense of $3 billion.

Although it is in the form of financial aid, the $3 billion is a substantial burden, considering the current economic situation in Korea. The government's decision to request the National Assembly's approval of the government's guarantee of the bank loan implies a substantial risk involved in the investment.

When comparing various economic aid by other nations so far, the $3 billion from South Korea is relatively large and risky.

The government emphasized that the $2 billion nonbank loan has the characteristic of a "market development" fund in a certain sense. In other words, the government is expecting this to be a good opportunity for Korean-made goods to strongly penetrate the Soviet market of more than 200 million people, who are suffering from the shortage of goods.

It remains to be seen whether our attempt to break the worldwide expanding technology and trade barriers by opening economic cooperation with the Soviet Union at a significant expense will bear fruit as we wish.

Burma

Sentences Given for Radio Station Attack

BK0703150091 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Military Tribunal of Yangon [Rangoon] Division today passed its judgment on the defendants connected to the rocket attack on a relay radio station near the Yegu Railway station in Mayangon Township. In this case, Bo Htwe Lwin, 26, son of U Ba Htwe; and Ba Min Thit, 27, son of U Po Hlaing, who were charged under Section 122.1 of the Penal Code, under Section 17.2 of the Unlawful Association Act, and Section 19.A of the Amended Provisional Arms Act, as well as three other defendants—Aung Than, 30, son of U Maung Maung; Myo Aung Htwe, 17, son of U Tin Aung; and Khin Zaw, 36, son of U Shwe Lay—who were also charged under Section 122.1 of the Penal Code, under Section 17.1 of the Unlawful Association Act, and Section 19.A of the Amended Provisional Arms Act were all given death sentences.

San Myint Aye, 37, son of U Htwe Myint; Aung Kyaw Moe, 17, son of U Maung Nge; Kyaw U, 19, son of U Myint Sein; Aung Moe, 20, son of U Win Kyi; Zaw Lin Aung, 20, son of U Aung Myint; Min Myat U, 24, son of U Khin Aung; Zaw Myint, 19, son of U Nyunt Maung; Hla Aung, 27, son of U Thein Aung; Yan Naing Aung, 31, son of U Myat Shwe; and Aung Kyaing, 31, son of U Thaung Tin, were all given life or 20 years imprisonment under Section 122.1 of the Penal Code, Section 17.1 of the Unlawful Association Act, and Section 19.A of the Provisional Arms Act.

The case follows an explosion in No. 8 Ward, near the Yegu Railways Station, Mayangon Township, at 2120 on 6 January 1991. Following an investigation by the Police Crime Investivation Department, a spent M-62 rocket launcher [preceding two words in English] shell and an M-62 rocket launcher [preceding two words in English] fitted with a timing device, but not yet triggered, were found placed on a vegetable patch about 150 yards south of Yegu station.

Further investigations into the case based on the clues obtained, resulted in the arrest of the above defendants. It was understood that these people were assigned by the Karen National Union insurgent, Bo Mya.

Coalition Government Leader Interviewed

PM0703152491 Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Mar 91 p 6

[Jean-Claude Buhrer report on interview with Sein Win, "prime minister of the national coalition government," at Manerplaw; date not given]

[Text] Manerplaw—The ruling junta in Rangoon is striving to keep Burma hermetically sealed. A bitter struggle has been engaged in with a group of parliamentary deputies who openly defied it by forming a provisional government on 18 December in the jungle controlled by the rebels of the ethnic minorities. Four opposition groups have been outlawed since December. The regime has stepped up its attacks on the National League for Democracy, which won the May 1990 elections. It has also threatened to try its leader, Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest since July 1989.

"The military men who have governed our country since General Ne Win's coup d'etat in 1962 are finding it hard to cling to power; they cannot go it alone forever. The world is changing, everything is changing, and Burma will change too." Despite another tide of repression and the junta's stubborn refusal to draw the conclusions from the opposition's crushing victory, Sein Win is confident about the future. Trained as a mathematician, this 47-year-old, shy-looking intellectual was not attracted by politics, and it was rather unwillingly that he has now become prime minister of a "national coalition government" formed in mid-December at Manerplaw, the headquarters of the Karen rebels near the Thai border.

"We had no other choice," he told us when we met, accompanied by his justice minister, at this isolated and supposedly impregnable camp in a distant corner of the malaria-infested jungle some 200 km northeast of Rangoon. "When we won 392 out of the 485 seats in Parliament the junta refused to honor the election result and to hand over power to the people's representatives," he said.

"Since then the repression has increased all the time. Thousands of people are in prison; hundreds of militants, some 50 of their elected representatives, and most members of the League's Central Committee have been arrested. The League is virtually paralyzed. Having no way of acting or making ourselves heard, the only option left to us was to go to the border and to form our own government in the liberated areas," he went on.

The principle of creating a provisional government was envisaged in October in Mandalay at a meeting of some 250 deputies under the protection of Buddhist monks. At that time carte blanche was given to seven of them to take appropriate measures when the time came. The army's violent action against the monasteries that housed the participants prompted seven members of parliament to go underground and to contact the ethnic minorities that have been rebelling against the central government since independence in 1948.

To set the seal on its alliance with some 20 ethnic, religious, and student groups, the provisional government formed the Democratic Front of Burma. But only members of parliament elected last May belong to the nine-man cabinet. It is no coincidence that Sein Win was chosen as prime minister. A cousin of Mrs Aug San Suu Kyi—the charismatic opposition leader whose house arrest has been extended by six months—his father is U

Ba Win, the elder brother of independence hero Aung San, both of whom were assassinated in 1947.

"We are not rebels," Sein Win said. "We are a legally elected government. We have a mandate from the people and from the League, whereas the military regime has none. Our chief aim is to overthrow the junta, which has outlawed itself. Then we will convene a national conference of representatives elected by the people and minorities to draft a new constitution and establish a democratic government."

Sein Win did not conceal the scale of the obstacles to be surmounted. But he thinks that the Burmese have welcomed his initiative, despite the fear inspired by the junta. Contacts were made with Bangkok before the latest putsch. Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi has just received the Sakharov Prize from the European Parliament, and Australia has suspended its aid as a sign of protest against her continued detention. At the beginning of February Burma's military regime was described as one of the world's most brutal by the American State Department's annual report on human rights violations.

Nevertheless Sein Win admits that victory will be "neither easy nor quick." The junta has intensified its ties with China, which supplies its weapons, and with Singapore, and it can still depend on some support within the Thai army. The regime's main strength rests on the Army, whose strength has been increased to 220,000 men.

"In order to survive," Sein Win said, "the junta has chosen to terrorize the population. The next two years will be crucial and will bring changes. The economic situation is going from bad to worse, which is only increasing the people's dissatisfaction, and I think that the virulent attacks being made on our government reveal the junta's state of disarray."

Cambodia

Meeting Supports National Assembly Resolutions

BK0703153591 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] A mass meeting was held in front of the former royal palace on the afternoon of 7 March to voice support for the resolutions of the National Assembly's extraordinary session. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia. Also attending the meeting were Comrade Sar Kheng, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, chief de cabinet of the KPRP Central Committee, and chairman of the Central Organization Commission; Comrade Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the Central Control Commission; Comrade General Tie Banh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of National Defense; Comrade General Sin Song, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, and minister of the Interior; Comrade Sim Ka, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of Phnom Penh Municipal Party Committee; the comrade leaders of the party and state institutions, mass organizations, central ministries and departments; and over 50,000 representatives of the armed forces, monks, people, ethnic nationalities, intellectuals, and students in Phnom Penh.

Also present were representatives from various embassies in Cambodia.

On that occasion, representatives of peasants, workers, intellectuals, and armed forces read petitions which expressed elation and unswerving support for the resolutions adopted by the recent extraordinary session of the National Assembly concerning a number of key issues for serving as a basis for implementing the national reconciliation policy and seeking a lasting, reasonable, and fair political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Those petitions also stressed the goodwill of the people from all walks of life throughout the country desiring to achieve peace without the genocidal clique.

Speaking on that occasion, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Comrade Hun Sen expressed great elation over the participants' support for the resolutions of the National Assembly extraordinary meeting.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers informed the participants of the goodwill stance of our State of Cambodia Government in seeking peace and happiness for the Cambodian people.

PRACHEACHON Hails Army Victories

BK0703081791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 6 Mar 91

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "The Ever-Victorious Cambodian People's Armed Forces"]

[Text] The Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] are a valiant armed force which fights effectively, is capable of dealing with all circumstances and incidents, and can effectively defend the national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and the people's peaceful life.

In the past difficult and complicated struggle, particularly after the total withdrawal of the friendly Vietnamese army volunteers from Cambodia, the CPAF have marched toward the stage of self-responsibility for their own national defense.

Cadres and combatants of all sectors, including the regular, regional, naval, air, police, and militia forces, have heightened their spirit of self-reliance and have been able to firmly defend their bases and positions.

In 1990 our valiant armed forces successfully repulsed all the adventurous schemes and activities of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan-Sihanouk-Son Sann Cambodian reactionary and genocidal groups which have attempted to seize positions and sabotage the people's rebirth in a number of localities, such as Svay Chek, Phnum Srok, and Varin District.

At the end of January and early February 1991, our armed forces in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang Provinces scored great feats in suppressing the enemies, who have used tanks and artillery pieces in their offensives, each of which was jointly launched by the three groups of Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann. We destroyed three tanks, killed or wounded many of their soldiers, and seized dozens of metric tons of arms and ammunition.

This clearly shows that although their supporters have declared the cessation of aid to them, these enemy groups are still armed with tanks. The CPAF, however, has resolutely attacked and smashed them.

Our armed forces are invincible and indispensable forces in all circumstances. The genocidal Pol Pot clique has not been able to return to power because our armed forces—the core of our entire people—have fought resolutely to prevent the Pol Pot clique's return.

All levels and all sectors and our entire people are confident in our armed forces. They have contributed to building, strengthening, and helping to make our armed forces in all areas strong and powerful.

Mat Ly Speaks on International Women's Day

BK0703131991 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Summary] A meeting was organized by the committee of the Cambodian Women's Association at the Basak festival hall in Phnom Penh on the morning of 6 March to mark the 81st anniversary of International Women's Day.

"Presiding over the occasion were Comrade Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of both the party Central Committee's Control Commission and the National Assembly; Comrade Chhuk Chhim, chairperson of the Central Cambodian Women's Association; Comrade Sek Setha, deputy foreign minister; Comrade Nut Kimlay, vice chairperson of the Cambodian Women's Association;" and representatives of international organizations in Cambodia and many other local and foreign institutions.

In her address, Chhuk Chhim voiced support for the recent session of the National Assembly on organizing general elections in 1992 with or without a political solution to the Cambodian problem. She also thanked international organizations for their assistance to the development of the Cambodian women's movement.

Addressing the meeting, Mat Ly praised the contribution of Cambodian women to national defense and construction. He reviewed the Cambodian situation over the past 12 years and the State of Cambodia's achievements in various fields. He said at a recent session, "National Assembly members discussed the proposal presented by the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers concerning the organization of general elections to elect new assembly members in 1992 in the event there is no political solution to the Cambodian problem and when our National Assembly reaches the end of its mandate. This proposal, in conformity with the constitution and our State of Cambodia's law, has been accepted for further consideration by the National Assembly, the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers."

At this recent session, "our National Assembly also discussed in detail the draft agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem, dated 26 November 1990 and prepared by the five major countries and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia on the Cambodian problem, and decided to adopt a number of principles to be used as the basis for implementing a policy of national reconciliation and in the search for a durable, reasonable, and just political solution to the Cambodian problem." "The State of Cambodia therefore reaffirmed once again that it accepts the majority of the points in the 26 November 1990 document (?granting) an important role to the United Nations based on the principles of respect for national sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination and the UN Charter. The National Assembly also reaffirmed that the State of Cambodia is always ready to continue negotiations to discuss inappropriate points in the document. In this respect, the National Assembly appealed for the speedy convening of the Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting to discuss all the issues which lie within the framework of the internal aspect of the Cambodian problem to speedily advance the peace process. Based on the above debate, the National Assembly specified a number of positions for the discussion to find a political solution, namely 1) a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem should have concrete measures to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return; 2) maintaining the political and military status quo until the establishment of a new government through free and proper elections; and 3) the important role of the United Nations in a political solution to the Cambodian problem should be in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of respect for sovereignty and the Cambodian nation's right to self-determination—the extent of the role to be granted to the United Nations should be decided by the SNC in its role as representative of Cambodia's sovereignty."

Phnom Penh Women Mark International Women's Day

BK0803084491 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1120 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Summary] Phnom Penh 7 Mar (SPK)—"A solemn meeting was organized in Phnom Penh on Tuesday morning, 5 March, in honor of the 81st anniversary of the International Women's Day (8 March).

"Attending the meeting were Sim Ka, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and secretary of the Phnom Penh City Party Committee, and members of the diplomatic corps as well as representatives of international organizations in Cambodia.

"It Manyan, chairman of the Phnom Penh City Women's Association, made a speech expressing the firm determination of the women of the city in particular and those of the country in general to fight for the happiness of the mothers and children and for universal peace."

She said: Despite their repeated setbacks on the battlefields, our enemies have not ceased their sabotage activities against our population in a bid to weaken our advance. Our just struggle, however, will prevail in preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot gang and defending the rebirth of the Cambodian nation.

She stressed that the women of Phnom Penh thank the party and government for their moral and material support for the female population.

On this occasion, Sim Ka expressed satisfaction at the great efforts of the Cambodian women, particularly the Cambodian female combatants, in the struggle for national reconstruction and defense. He urged the meeting participants to continue fighting against the return of the genocidal regime. Several women's delegations also visited and distributed gifts to hospitalized cadres and combatants.

Chea Sim Meets With Private Companies

BK0803081791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0413 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 8 Mar (SPK)—Chea Sim, member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, met with Cambodian private companies established in the capital at the seat of the Phnom Penh People's Committee on 6 March.

Chea Sim, also chairman of the National Assembly, informed his audience of the country's current situation and the enemy's dark designs to bring the genocidal Pol Pot clique back to power, and expressed satisfaction at the important contributions of the Cambodian population, particularly of the Phnom Penh private companies, to national building, especially in the construction of schools, hospitals, means of communications, and monasteries.

The owners of the 19 companies present at the meeting offered a total of 16.5 million riel for the construction of an honor stand and two temples in front of the former royal palace.

The associations of Chinese residents in Phnom Penh and Sour Srun, a Cambodian resident in Singapore, also contributed 3.2 million and 1 million riel respectively for that project.

SPK Reports Enemy Casualties in Kompong Thom

BK0803072891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0436 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 8—According to military sources, in February this year, the government forces in Kompong Thom Province (150km north of Phnom Penh) launched intensive counterattacks against enemy troops who infiltrated into the districts of Stoung, Balang and Kompong Svay.

During the operation, the government troops killed 98 enemy soldiers, wounded 24, disarmed 58, forced four others to surrender, the sources said.

The government forces also seized 258 guns of various calibers and a quantity of other war materials; and destroyed 138 enemy hideouts and one truck.

In the same period, the sources further said, 35 Polpotists, 19 Sonsannians and 49 Sihanoukists deserted their ranks and reported themselves to the local authorities. They handed over 68 rifles and a quantity of other war means to the authorities.

In addition, the local inhabitants found two rifles, one land mine and seven hand grenades which were left by enemy soldiers while retreating.

German MP, Delegation Arrive for Official Visit

BK0803070691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0445 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 8—A parliamentary delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany headed by Mr. Dierter Schanz, an M.P. [member of Parliament], arrived here Wednesday on an official visit.

This is the first official visit to Cambodia by a German delegation since the reunification of the two German states.

Accompanied by Mr. Nobert von Hoffman, a German diplomat to Hanoi, Mr. Dieter Schanz, who is also representative of the Socialist Democratic Party of Germany (SDPG) and member of the Socialist International, will be guest of Mat Ly, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly, and Hor Namhong, foreign minister. He also plans to have talks with officials from the ministries of finance, social affairs and industry.

During his three-day stay here the German M.P. will visit a number of cultural centers, including the former royal palace and the national museum.

Ieng Mouli: Implement UN Plan Despite Protest

BK0703074091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Ieng Mouli, general secretary of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front's [KPNLF] executive committee, said the best solution for peace in Cambodia is in the implementation of the peace plan prepared by the five major powers and stressed that this plan should be implemented despite objection from the Hanoi Vietnamese and the Cambodians Vietnam has propped up in Phnom Penh.

In a meeting with Arthur Perron, Canadian ambassador to Thailand, in Bangkok early this week Ieng Mouli said there is no better political solution than the UN peace plan prepared by the UN Security Council [UNSC] permanent members; the plan cannot yet be implemented in Cambodia because the Hanoi Vietnamese and the party Vietnam has put up in power in Phnom Penh have opposed the major points of this plan. Ieng Mouli said the peace plan worked out by the United Nations is to solve the conflict between Vietnam and Cambodia while the Hun Sen party in Phnom Penh simply represents Vietnam's interests. Therefore, if we wait for this party and the Hanoi Vietnamese to agree, there is no way of knowing when this plan can be implemented to get peace for the Cambodian people. Ieng Mouli held that this plan should be implemented for the Cambodian people's benefits, without waiting for the agreement from the Hun Sen party and the Hanoi Vietnamese.

As for the implementation of this plan, the KPNLF General Secretary held that further economic pressure should be applied on Hanoi by ensuring that no countries undertake major economic relations with Vietnam, such as financial investment in the country.

Ieng Mouli is due to leave on a mission to Pakistan this Thursday [7 March] evening.

VONADK: Enemies in Kampot Province Attacked

BK0803021091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] 1. On 24 February our national resistance forces launched a two-pronged attack against Dang Tong district seat on Kampot battlefield. The first prong attacked the district seat and the second attacked positions of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets at Anuvithyalay school.

After a 30-minute battle, we were in complete control on these two fronts. We killed nine and wounded 20 enemy soldiers, and destroyed three B-40's and B-41's, three motor pumps, a sawmill, a paddy mill, 20 military shelters, and a quantity of war materiel. We seized an 80-mm and a 60-mm mortar, two B-40's and B-41's, 24 AK's, 30 SK rifles, a large truck, 30 bicycles, two T-25 field radios, an assortment of ammunition rounds, and a quantity of various war materiel.

2. On 25 February our national resistance forces continued the attack against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppets and lackeys and swept them from Dang Tong to Phnum Totoeng and from Roung Veng to Lar Dap. We killed three and wounded eight enemy soldiers, and destroyed 15 AR's, four machine guns, and a quantity of war materiel.

3. On 26 February our national resistance forces attacked and destroyed two positions of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppets and lackeys at Lar Dap and the fertilizer plant at Phnum Totoeng. We killed six and wounded eight enemy soldiers; destroyed six military shelters; and seized four AK's, five B-40's and B-41's, an assortment of ammunition rounds, and a quantity of various war materiel. We liberated three communes—Dang Tong, Khcheay Khang Tbong, and Totoeng—and 21 villages: (Krangieng) Khang Kaeut, (Krangieng) Khang Lech, Phnum Toch, Sdok Thlork, Damrai Leng, Khpoh, and O Kandaol in Totoeng Commune; Prey Koki, Srov Kraom, Srov Leu, Khcheay Khang Cheung, Trapeang Mnoah, (Chrok Kas), Trapeang Veng, and Prey Pork in Dang Tong Commune; Kamraeng Krasang, Damnak Trayoeng, (Phlich De), Chheu Kraom, Prey Samar, and Prey Phnum in Khcheay Khang Tbong Commune. We also freed 130 village and commune officials.

Indonesia

OPEC Must Decide on Production Cuts in Geneva

BK0803055991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0555 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Jakarta, March 8 (AFP)—Indonesia Friday said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) must decide on cutting back oil production when its 13 ministers meet in Geneva starting Monday.

"Production must be cut, by how much and how, we don't know yet," Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita told reporters.

He said if supply exceeded demand, then automatically OPEC must take steps, "because it benefits no one if supply is excessive."

The meeting of OPEC's Monitoring Committee is the first since the end of the Gulf war last week which pit Iraq, an OPEC member, against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, also members, as part of a U.S.-led military coalition.

Mr. Ginanjar said the meeting, which all 13 members were expected to attend, would hear a report by Secretary General Subroto on the oil market situation and on OPEC's production capacities for the third quarter, especially with regard to Iraq and Kuwait.

"If Iraq and Kuwait are still unable to produce, then the output of the other OPEC members must necessarily be higher than their previous quotas in order to satisfy the market," he said.

OPEC abandoned its production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels per day in August after the United Nations imposed an economic embargo against Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

The other 11 members have since pumped out more oil to make up for the four million barrels of oil per day previously produced by the two countries.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) this week put production by OPEC's 11 members in February at 23 million barrels per day.

Mr. Ginanjar said he believed that the meeting was unlikely to change OPEC's price target of 21 dollars a barrel agreed on in July last year.

"There is no need to revise," he said.

The minister also welcomed the decision this week by the IEA, the West's energy watchdog, to call off its contingency measure imposed before the Gulf war began in January that called on member countries to tap their strategic oil reserves to help stabilise the oil market.

"This is a very good development," he added.

Alatas on Efforts To Solve Gulf Conflicts

BK0703152991 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Indonesia continues to hold the view that efforts to seek a comprehensive solution to the Gulf conflicts after the current cease-fire should be held through an international conference. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this to reporters after he met with former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger in Jakarta today.

Alatas stressed that half-hearted efforts to solve the Gulf conflicts will not work. Therefore, Indonesia believes that a comprehensive solution can be found only through an international conference as proposed by the Nonaligned Movement, which includes the Arab countries.

New Zealand Minister Declines Comment on EAEG

BK0803070991 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] New Zealand wants to see the results of the Uruguay Round first before commenting on Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's idea of creating an East Asian Economic Grouping [EAEG]. Don McKinnon, New Zealand deputy prime minister and concurrently minister of external relations and trade, made the remarks in reply to questions by newsmen following a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in Jakarta yesterday evening. Before meeting Minister Ali Alatas, McKinnon paid a courtesy call on President Suharto and held talks with Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economic, industrial, and financial affairs.

According to McKinnon, Indonesia is the first ASEAN country he is visiting since assuming his post about three months ago. The New Zealand minister of external relations said it is now too early for him to comment on the EAEG proposed by the Malaysian prime minister because he is still studying the idea.

Dispute With Malaysia Over Islands Viewed

BK0703152791 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 20 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Dispute Between Indonesia and Malaysia Over Two Islands"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to solve the issue of two disputed islands in a brotherly way. The two islands, Sipedan Island (also called Simpadan, Sempadan, or Sepadan Island) and Ligitan or Likitan Island, are now under Malaysia's control and located on the east of Nunukan Island, at the East Kalimantan-Sabah border.

Located about 43 miles to the east of Sebatik Island, Sipedan Island is about 50,000 square meters, but is without permanent inhabitants. However, the island and its surrounding waters are believed to have mineral deposits, oil, and gas. Also, the island, also known as "Turtle Island", is said to be one of the five most beautiful sea gardens in the world. It is not surprising that the Malaysian Government has developed the island as a marine tourist resort.

In February 1980, Malaysia even published a new map in which both Sipedan and Ligitan Islands were included as its own territory. This is despite the fact that in 1969, the issue of the two islands was put in the agenda of continental shelf talks between the two countries. As an agreement could not be reached, the issue of the two islands was put on hold following talks between President Suharto and then Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Razak in 1969. Further talks between President Suharto and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed in Yogyakarta in 1986 and in Kuala Lumpur in July 1990 reiterated the two countries' desire to solve the issue in a brotherly way.

Even though the two countries agree to put the issue on hold, the Malaysian Government has actually developed the two islands, especially Sipedan Island, which is a fascinating turtle habitat, into marine tourist resorts. Being "two countries of the same racial stock" which have agreed to put the issue on hold while at the same time both governments consider the issue an inheritance of the colonial rule, we believe that such agreement should be upheld.

The presence of foreign troops in Sipedan Island was reported in May 1982, but Admiral Sudomo, the then deputy commander of the Command for the Restoration of Security and Order, dismissed the report. But he also stressed that the island was still under dispute. In addition, other islands to the east of Nunukan Island, such as Ligitan, Mabul, Kapalai, and Sipedan Islands, were often used as a stopover or hideout by the Moro group members based in the southern Philippines. Therefore, it was not surprising that following the reported presence of foreign troops in Sipedan Island in May 1982, the issue of the disputed islands surfaced again.

The two disputed islands are not the only issue involving Indonesia and Malaysia. Other problems involve the border areas between West Kalimantan and Sarawak and between East Kalimantan and Sabah. In 1982, there were even widespread reports that border posts installed by the British and Netherland colonial administrations were moved deep into the Indonesian territory for logging purposes.

In fact, as Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia Sunarso Jayusman pointed out, the British and Netherland colonial governments never specified the status of Sipedan and Ligitan Islands in 1891. However, if the current border line is drawn, the two islands should be included in Indonesian territory.

In this connection, we share the view of Foreign Minister Alatas who said recently in Denpasar, Bali, that the dispute on the two islands should not be blown out of proportion by the foreign press because "the two countries of the same racial stock" should be able to solve the dispute in a brotherly way in the negotiating table. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the dispute has been put on the agenda for talks and put on hold since 1969, or for 22 years already, an early solution to the dispute will have a special meaning to bilateral relations in the future.

It is in fact unnecessary for the two sides to feel reluctant to discuss the status of the two islands in an open manner because in the "family," there is no problem that cannot be solved.

Laos

Statement Issued on Solution in Cambodia

BK0803123191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 7 March issued a statement on the Cambodian problem. The statement says: The international community is now extremely worried and concerned about the escalation of the threat of civil war that might be started by the armed forces of the Khmer Rouge and other Cambodian resistance factions in Cambodia as some light has been shown on the process of seeking a permanent political solution to the Cambodian problem. Recently, many countries such as Indonesia and France—the cochairmen of the Paris international confernce—and the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council have exerted tireless efforts to seek a political solution to the Cambodian problem. The goodwill and the compromising attitude in systematically implementing the national reconciliation policy of the Government of the State of Cambodia on the basis of the legitimate interest of the Cambodian people has yielded a concrete result in the process of settling the Cambodian problem, that is the establishment of the Supreme National Council [SNC], which has been recognized worldwide as the legitimate representative of the Cambodian people in the international community. The SNC is also an important organization to activate the process of national reconciliation in peace.

It is now the time for the Cambodian resistance factions to prove to the world people their good intention to contribute to solving the political problem. On the contrary, they have intensified their assault operations to destroy lives and property of the Cambodian people in the northeastern region of Cambodia in the most vicious manner. The Cambodian people, who have created a magnificant civilization and recorded majestic heoric deeds in the history of the country, have experienced the barbarous massacres, atrocities, and severe sufferings perpetuated by the Pol Pot genocidal regime. They now deserve peace so that they can develop the Land of Ankgor for the prosperity and well-being of the future generations of Cambodia.

In face of the increasing threat of civil war in Cambodia, the Lao Government and people call on all countries in the world to exert their efforts and find an effective way to prevent the flame of the civil war and encourage the Cambodian factions to resume the meeting of the SNC so that they can continue discussion and talks on the settlement of their internal problems. The Lao Goverment considers that the most important and top priority problem at this time in solving the Cambodian problem is that the international community must call for for a cease-fire and halt of military assistance from foreign countries for all Cambodian factions. The Cambodian people must solve their internal problems free from all forms of external interference. The international community has the only duty of supporting and acknowledging every agreement made by the SNC. This is the way to bring about peace and national reconciliation for Cambodia which is in line with the Soviet-U.S. initiative made on 23 September 1989.

As a neighbouring country sharing a common border with Cambodia, the Lao Government supports the proposal put forth by the SRV which calls for Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand to pledge that they will not allow other countries to transport weapons through their territories into Cambodia and is ready to sign every agreement for the implementation of the such a proposal under the supervision of the United Nations. The Lao Government and people once again reaffirm that they will make all efforts to join with all countries to support the process of finding a political solution to the Cambodian problem so as to turn Cambodia an independent, sovereign, neutral, and nonaligned country as a contribution to the transformation of Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

Feature Says Propaganda of Cold War Continues

BK0703112591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 6 Mar 91

["Has Cold War Ended?"]

[Text] During the past few years, the Western world has repeatedly claimed that the Cold War era has come to its end following the alteration of the situation in Eastern Europe. Let us investigate into such propaganda to find out if the Cold War has really ended or not. People are very confused about this because they still hear all kinds propaganda against communist parties of many countries. If this is not a Cold War, it must be a propaganda war.

Despite their bitter and shameful defeat in Laos, they have not yet discarded their efforts to launch propaganda against the just and correct lines and policies of our party and government. For example, the article written by James Pringle, published in the 18 January issue of BANGKOK POST, Thailand's English-language newspaper, on the situation in Laos says: Women and men [words indistinct] have been sent to undergo rehabilitation courses. Women are forced to wear sarongs. The administration of the country during the period from 1975 to 1979 was carried out in a violent and Stalinist manner. Soldiers and policemen of the former regime were sent to seminar camps. People were not allowed to leave the country while violation of human rights in Laos was rampant.

The article tells us that the West has not given up its propaganda aimed at discrediting the just and correct lines and policies of our party and government. They have been trying to concoct groundless stories to distort facts about the actual conditions in our country, create suspicion of the lines and policies of the party, sow discord within the country, divide lower and higher echelons, in particular to discredit the role of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party in leading the revolution in our country in the past. The article also constitutes interference in internal affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Everyone can recall the peaceful liberation of the country on 2 December 1975 which was the result of the people's revolutionary struggle under our party's leadership. This is the evidence of the prudence and sense of humanitarianism of our party which helped to prevent loss of lives and property of our compatriots. Since the complete liberation of our country, our party has been consistently implementing the national reconciliation policy. There has not been any discrimination against any class or race. The people living in either the newly liberated or old liberated areas are all regarded as members of the national community.

Our party and government have applied the policy of forgiveness with soldiers and policemen who were forced to serve the scheme of aggression of the foreign imperialists. They have never been subject to any retribution. They have been educated about the just and correct lines and policies of our party and government so that they can turn themselves into the people under the new regime. This is the indication of the sense of the humanitarianism of the party and government toward our compatriots. During the war of aggression against our country which lasted over 30 years, these people used to collude with the foreign imperialists to drop bombs and chemical weapons to kill our compatriots in the liberated zones. Every person in the liberated zones received an average of over three tons of bombs and ammunition from the foreign imperialists. Nobody knows the atrocities and brutality of the imperialist war of aggression better than the Lao people, who have lost their fathers, mothers, children, brothers, sisters, uncles, and aunts as well as houses, property, farmlands, etc. The war has left numerous disabled persons and orphans in the country. Our people in many localties are still unable to resume or increase their production because landmines and booby traps of the imperialists are still buried under their farmlands. Are these acts [words indistinct] by James Pringle?

Editorial on Armywide Congress of Party Cadres

BK0603085591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Editorial: "Wholeheartedly Pay Tribute to And Hail the Third Armywide Congress of Party Cadres"]

[Text] Amid an atmosphere in which the entire party, army, and people are joyously and actively making contributions to the cause of defending and building the country and vigorously stepping up emulation campaigns to win achievements to welcome the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] which will be convened soon, in particular in an atmosphere in which the cadres and combatants in the ranks of the regular armed forces, regional armed forces, and infantry and militia-guerrillas forces are positively carrying out the line and tasks entrusted to them by higher echelons to contribute to turning the national defense and public security work into the work of the entire people, the Third Congress of Party Cadres in the Entire Army was majestically opened in Vientiane capital at 0800 on 5 March. The congress was attended by representatives of party cadres from various army units, factories or plants, schools, hospitals, and bases along with representatives of senior party cadres, heroes, heroines, and emulation combatants.

The Third Congress of Party Cadres in the Entire Army was convened at the time while the movements have been positively carried out in the country to effect new changes in all respects in conformity with the line of the LPRP, the movements which have brought about many difficulties arising from the fierce and furious struggle in both political and ideological fields, namely the class struggle and struggle between the two lines—the old and the new, the progressive and the backward ones. In light of the struggle, many difficulties and complexities have inevitably arisen. Moreover, at a time of such political difficulties in our country, a number of ill-intentioned elements have used the situation to carry out propaganda distorting facts and slandering our party's new line on modification with a view to creating division between the state and the people and between the higher and lower echelons. Those bad elements have also pursued their schemes under many other forms.

Nevertheless, throughout the period of the preparations for this congress, the party members, party units, cadres, and combatants in the entire army have tentatively and enthusiastically launched short-term emulation campaigns to win achievements to pay tribute to and greet the Third Congress of Party Cadres in the Entire Army. They have carried out the campaigns through many different forms under the supervisory control of party units. Many units have achieved glorious successes in positively fulfilling their tasks. Noteworthy is that various party and army units attached to the regular and regional armed forces have launched emulation campaigns in implementing the plan of building all-round strong army and party units and training party members. At the same time, cadres and combatants of various corps have concentrated on carrying out the national defense and public security work throughout the country. They have genuinely turned this work into the work of the entire masses. As a result, tranquillity has been basically maintained in various localities from the plains to mountainous areas and from townships to remote, rural areas, thus creating favorable conditions for the multi-ethnic people, with confidence in the party's leadership, to carry out production to improve their living conditions.

Along with the aforementioned tasks, in various army units and mass organizations in the grass roots, cadres and combatants have also concentrated on training themselves in the political and ideological fields to consolidate units and organizations, heighten vigilance against all schemes of the enemies, maintain combat readiness, and regularly study combat tactics. They have also striven to settle problems, improve the living conditions of their units, and guarantee ideological tranquility. As a result, our armed forces have been effectively turned into a strong rampart in the national defense and public security maintenance field.

On the occasion of this third armywide congress of party cadres, the party members, cadres, and combatants in the ranks of the Lao People's Armed Forces would like to pay tribute to the congress and wish it a glorious success.

Military Unit Studies Party Congress Document

BK0803123991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Unit "B" in the northern region held organized a meeting from 25 to 27 February for cadres to study and discuss the draft political report to be presented in the upcoming Fifth Party Congress and review the report on the unit's performance during the past five years. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Army General Political Departy, cadres, and party members in the unit.

During the meeting, cadres and party members were allowed to discuss the reports and voice their opinions in a democratic manner. Many achievements accomplished by the unit during the past five years are praiseworthy such as those in national defense and maintenance of peace and order in the area under its responsibility. The unit has gained trust and confidence from the people in the locality and is reputed for its internal unity, good relations with the local people, and high sense of responsibility.

The meeting discussed shortcomings of the unit and their solutions and elected representatives of the unit's party members to attend the armywide conference of party cadres.

Order Issued on Disbandment of Video Service

BK0803122791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Acting minister of information and culture [Son Khamvanvongsa] on 2 March issued an order temporarily disbanding all existing stores and branches of videocassette service throughout the country. He cites a reason for the disbandment in the order that in the recent past, it is apparent that many videocassette stores and branches have shown and distributed many videotape recordings which have resulted in bringing about negetive phenomena to the society and which have opposed the line and policy of the party, the fine traditions of the nation, and articles 59 and 127 of the criminal law. Such the video tape recordings, the order says, are poisonous to the line of thinking of the people, in particular youths who can be easily misled into maintaining a wrong line of thinking.

For this reason, the Information and Culture Ministry has issued the order disbanding all private and state-owned videocassette as well as film distributing stores and branches throughout the country. The order has come into effect from the day it was issued.

For those who want to continue runing the stores and branches, they must apply for permission directly from the Paper, Video, and Film Management Department attached to the Information and Culture Ministry only. In the order, the acting minister of information and culture has also suggested that videocassette producers product Lao video recordings which are characterized by nation, progress, and masses and added that they will be provided with conveniences to distribute those videotapes abroad and to take part in the national video festival which will be organized in the immediate future.

U.S.-Funded School Handed Over in Savannakhet

BK0803104691 Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 8 (KPL)—A hand-over ceremony of primary school worth U.S. dollars 25,000 built with the fund of the U.S. Administration, took place in Nong District, Savannakhet Province, on March 5.

The school, 30mx7m, is the first built by the U.S. engineering personnel directly dispatched from Hawaii. The construction of the school coincided with the excavation of the two sites of American plane crash during the war. The excavation jointly conducted in February by a group of Lao and American technicians in the light of the humanitarian policy pursued by the Lao Government brought about satisfactory result revealing the remains and other evidences of the American missing in action personnel. Taking part in the hand-over ceremony were U.S. charge d'affaires to Laos on behalf of the donor, vice governor of Savannakhet on behalf of the recipient, Souban Salitthilat, Lao deputy minister of foreign affairs, officials and a number of local residents of Nong District.

In their speeches, the Lao deputy minister of foreign affairs, U.S. charge d'affaires to Laos, and vice governor of Savannakhet recalled the fruitful cooperation between Laos and the United States as well as the implementation of the hunanitarian policy pursued by the Lao Government. The three personnalities also expressed conviction that the cooperation would gradually develop.

Phoumi Vongvichit Sends Gorbachev Birthday Message

OW0703130391 Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 7 (KPL)—Acting-President Phoumi Vongvichit of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has sent a wishing telegram to President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics on his 60th birthday.

On the occasion he wished the traditional solidarity, friendly relations and all-round cooperation between the two countries improved and increasingly strengthened in the two countries improved and increasingly strengthened in the interest of the peoples of the two nations. [graf as received]

The acting president also wished the Soviet president good health and success in his noble duty.

Philippines

Presidential Delegation Leaves for Gulf Tour

HK0803034491 Quezon City MALAYA in English 8 Mar 91 p 3

[By Gerry Baldo and Shalom Mapagu]

[Text] Labour Secretary Ruben Torres yesterday left for the Middle East to firm up commitments from the Gulf states of the country's participation in the post-war reconstruction.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration [POEA], meanwhile, announced the lifting of the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Jordan, Israel, Kuwait and Iraq following the end of hostilities in Gulf region.

Torres said the the six-man special presidential delegation will also check on the conditions of the Filipino workers in the region, especially the 1,000 workers who opted to remain in Kuwait during the war.

They will see if the Philippine embassy in Kuwait can be reopened.

There are an estimated 390,000 to 500,000 Filipinos working in the Gulf area.

Torres said his 15-day trip will focus on talks with officials of the Gulf states, particularly with the Kuwaiti and Saudi labor ministers.

The delegation includes Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pablo Suarez, OWWA [expansion unknown] Administrator Atanacio Maronilla, POEA Deputy Administrator Manuel Imson, Airport General Manager Eduardo Carrascoso, and Jovenal Lazaga of the Interantional Labor Affairs Service.

In Malacanang, President Aquino said the government has not decided on whether to seek reparations from Iraq for the reported $600 million the Philippines had lost during the invasion of Kuwait.

Mrs. Aquino, in a press statement, also said the government had not reached a decision on whether it would recognize a post-Gulf War Iraq still ruled by strongman Saddam Husayn.

"These matters are still under study," she said, "and it is premature to be speaking about them now. I will await the inputs from (Cabinet) Cluster E and the Department of Foreign Affairs before making any announcement."

At the Senate, Sen. Mamintal Tamano (NP) reiterated his call on the Aquino administration to bid for major construction projects in Kuwait and Iraq so that it could ensure more jobs for Filipino workers.

Rebels Offered $10,000 To Join Iraqi Terrorists

HK0803051991 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] An immigration official disclosed that Filipinos turned rebel Muslims were offered $10,000 to join an Iraqi terrorist group responsible for bombings and other terrorist activities in the Philippines. The Iraqi plot was unveiled after the expulsion of Iraqi Consul General Muwafak al 'Ani and two other Iraqi students involved in the 19 January bombings of a U.S. library in Makati, Metro Manila. According to the source, Al 'Ani formed a spy network in the Philippines after Iraq annexed Kuwait. But Al' Ani denied the accusations before leaving for Iraq. The source ascertained that the failed bombing attempt of the Thomas Jefferson Library is clear evidence that there is a terrorist group in the country. It was learned that most of the group's members are rebel Muslims from the universities of Manila and Mindanao, but preference is given to rebel soldiers due to their military training.

Webb: U.S. Budget Should Include Bases Rental

HK0803014191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Congressman Freddie Webb today asked the Philippine Bases Panel to insist on the automatic and continuous inclusion of the U.S. bases rental fees in the U.S. annual federal budget.

This was contained in a resolution Webb sent to Foreign Affairs Secretary Manglapus. Under the 1988 Manglapus-Schultz agreement, the United States committed to pay the Philippines a hard component amounting to $475 million and a soft component amounting to $745 million, for the remaining two years of the 1947 Military Bases Agreement [MBA].

The 1947 MBA will terminate on 16 September 1991, but according to Webb, the United States failed to fully comply with its commitment, because the amounts were based on a best effort pledge only.

Bases, Global Economic Opportunities Viewed

HK0803034891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 8 Mar 91 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Cut Us In"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus says that finalization of a new military bases treaty is threatened by unresolved differences between the Philippine and American panels on the issue of payment.

The Manglapus panel is asking for $825 million per year for a seven-year phaseout agreement, while the Armitage panel is proposing $360 million per year for a transition period of 10 to 12 years. It was easier for the U.S. to condone Egypt's $7-billion debt and assure Israel of additional aid at the height of the Gulf war than to accede to the Philippine request.

There is something unpleasant and sad in this. It shows that the negotiations, mishandled from the beginning, continue to be mishandled by both sides.

If the bases agreement were a simple real estate transaction, then it should depend solely on whether or not the parties recognize the prevailing real estate prices and whether or not the U.S. is willing to pay those rates. But it is not a real estate transaction and it should not be treated as such.

In the beginning, the issue was sovereignty and the risk of acting as a "magnet" for a Soviet nuclear strike because of America's possible use of the bases as a site for nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union was then a rival nuclear superpower, seen by all to have active political and military interests in the region, and therefore posing as a threat to the bases in the Philippines. Inversely, the defenders of the bases argued that for so long as the Soviet threat existed, the base should be maintained.

Now the Soviet threat is gone. The Soviet navy remains, but given the internal collapse of the Soviet empire, the political will no longer exists to support or carry out its previous policy of expansionism. Its large nuclear arsenal also remains, but owing to the secessionist wave that has engulfed the Baltic states, the central authority in Moscow is now in the process of withdrawing nuclear weapons from areas that are or may be later involved in secession struggle against the Kremlin.

For the local anti-bases movement, this validates the argument that there is no longer any pressing need for the U.S. to keep permanent bases as part of its global deterrent system. The recent war in the Gulf, where the U.S. deployed 500,000 troops and thousands of tanks and planes at the head of a 28-nation coalition, also shows that with its state-of-the-art weaponry and rapid deployment capability, it does not need to maintain a permanent base anywhere to mount something like Desert Storm.

But the same premise also supports the argument that a third country like the Philippines may now host or continue to host U.S. facilities with little or no risk of getting involved, in a worst-case scenario, in a nuclear Armageddon. If for any reason then our government should find it in the national interest to continue hosting the bases, the absence of a Soviet threat makes it possible for Mrs. Aquino to say with some conviction that she is not courting any nuclear disaster. If then the nuclear issue continues at all, it should be because of our environmental concerns, not even because the People's Republic of China, where the communists remain in power, is also a nuclear power.

What we are saying here is that, given recent developments in superpower politics, it is now easier for us to decide on the issue of the bases, on the basis of our verifiable national interests without reference to the ideological question. Because the international communist movement is done, and a unipolar world has emerged under the aegis of American power, the government can now detach itself from its formal alliance with the U.S. without inviting the charge that it has gone over to the camp of a competing superpower. At the very least, it can disagree with the U.S. on any number of questions without provoking that accusation. It can act with greater freedom as an independent and sovereign nation.

Or—and this is the much bigger proposition—the government can strengthen its alliance with the U.S. in the hope of sharing whatever it can of the enlarged opportunities open to the lone superpower. We can no longer afford to think small. We must think big and aim high. We should be more ambitious for the nation than the government has been so far.

We should not offer the U.S. or be merely content with a real estate deal that gives us an annual $825 million or more in return (assuming the figure is finally acceptable). Rather we should work for a stronger partnership that allows us legitimate claim and access to significant benefits in trade investments, technological and research flow, environmental protection, culture, etc. as a direct consequence of our using our strategic resource to support regional and global stability in tandem with the lone superpower.

In one word, if the continued use of the bases helps free economies to flourish in the region and the world, we do not wish to see our negotiators extending a beggar's or courtesan's hand and haggling over rent. Rather, we would like to see them looking at the regional and global economic opportunities that alliance with the U.S. opens to our national economy, and saying, "We want to be part of the action. Cut us in."

Editorial Views U.S. Bases' Depreciating Value

HK0803035091 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 8 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "The Depreciating Value of the Bases"]

[Text] The brilliant American-led military campaign in the Gulf has reestablished the United States' position as the foremost military and technological power in the world. It has ended the Vietnam syndrome and has sent skyrocketing America's confidence in itself as a leader in international affairs in the post-Cold War years.

As a medium-sized nation which has made only a marginal contribution to the coalition's war effort against Iraq, the Philippines faces new problems in the resurgence of the American confidence in its military and political power. These problems have to do with the negotiations over the military bases now being concluded.

The secretary of foreign affairs, Raul Manglapus, is in Washington to tie the loose ends of the new arrangements (whether they be in the form of treaty or executive agreement, we don't know at this stage). The final talks center on compensation involving amounts in which Philippine demands are a gulf apart from what the U.S. is prepared to pay. The other main issue is over arrangements for the continuation of the use by the U.S. of naval facilities in Subic bay within a phaseout time frame.

However, the talks are taking place in a changed environment which can influence the outcome. The environment has been created by the U.S. military triumph in the Gulf and the euphoric feeling of invincibility in the White House, Capitol Hill and the Pentagon that America is at a moment where it can do anything it wants to influence the creation of a new international order not only in the Middle East but anywhere else, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

One of the important military lessons learned early by the U.S. in the Gulf war was that in assembling the coalition forces against Iraq the bases in the Philippines had less than central importance. The bases in mainland America and the facilities and forces in NATO were the main military resources that were immediately mobilized to respond to the crisis.

This lesson has a bearing on the bases negotiations. It gives the U.S. a strong bargaining position, based on the argument that, as demonstrated in the Gulf war, the bases in the Philippines have a reduced role responding to conflict in such flashpoint regions as the Middle East. This argument has to be answered.

This means that Mr Manglapus will have to do a lot more work in Washington than just visiting officials and members of Congress or just forging the final form of the new bases arrangements. He will have to invent new arguments that would stress the relative importance of the bases in the regional (Asia-Pacific) perspective in order that he can squeeze more concessions than what the U.S. is now prepared to make.

It is entirely possible that, given the lessons of the Gulf war, the value of the bases in the Philippines will be so depreciated in terms of serving American security interests that they could be phased out before seven years are over—ahead of the schedule now being discussed.

NPA Plot To Kill Labor Leaders Uncovered

HK0703140491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Philippine National Police [PNP] today discovered a plot by the communist rebels to kill moderate labor leaders in the city. According to Colonel Wilfredo Cruz, PNP Intelligence Service Command chief, they uncovered the plot through seized subversive documents. Included on the alleged New People's Army [NPA] hit list are Democrito Mendoza of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Johnny Tan of the

Federation of Free Workers, and other prominent labor personalities. However, Cruz stated that none of the leftist labor leaders from, for example, the 1 May Movement, were found in the hit list. He added that deep penetration agents who managed to infiltrate the NPA ranks confirmed the plot to assassinate moderate labor leaders. The operation, codenamed Oplan Chiquito, aims to set up a stronger and more united politico-military center in Metro Manila.

Military Report on Plot

HK0803040491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 8 Mar 91 p 3

[By reporter Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] A senior Camp Crame official yesterday bared an alleged plan of communist urban insurgents to assassinate moderate labor leaders whom they described as "counterrevolutionary."

Colonel Wildredo Cruz, police intelligence service command chief, unveiled the urban communist guerillas' campaign plan against labor leaders in a three-paged report submitted to Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno.

In his report, Cruz identified two of the moderate labor leaders as Democrito Mendoza of the conservative Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and Johnny Tan of the Federation of Free Workers (FFW).

Citing seized documents from Eduardo Alcober, 24, who was recently arrested by police operatives, Cruz said members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) were also up to kill five other moderate labor leaders. The names of the five other labor leaders on the rebels' hit list were not mentioned in the report.

Cruz said the ABB's first successful assassination operation was carried out last year when they killed Oscar Lazaro, head of the Paszang Masda, a large jeepney drivers' association. Cruz also said that the ABB hit men were also responsible for the slaying last year of Eduardo Federico and Ernesto Gonzales, the leaders of the Negros Occidental-based Democratic and Independent Workers' Association (DIWA), a breakaway of the left-leaning Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) [1 May Movement]

Codenamed Operation Plan Chiquito, Cruz said the plan to assassinate moderate labor leaders was aimed at establishing a "well-founded politico-military plan" in Metro Manila and other major urban centers in the country. The plot, he further explained, was assigned for implementation and execution to the partisan platoons under the direct supervision of the Alex Boncayao Brigade's politico-military department (PMD).

"This politico-military operation is part of the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] program to effect the establishment of a strong and veritable unified politico-military center in Metro Manila," the report added. "The creation of PMD and the subsequent organization of various partisan platoons under its command are designed to ensure high combat effectiveness and guarantee the success of the ABB's partisan forces in the metropolis."

Moreover, Cruz said the conduct of Oplan [Operational Plan] Chiquito "is pursuant to the CPP-NPA's attempt to create a revolutionary situation that will culminate in a popular armed uprising in the National Capital Region."

Capital Defense Chief on Insurgency Situation

HK0803014591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[By Eloy Aquino of Mobile Unit No. 12]

[Text] Brigadier General Sermo Cunanan, chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command [NCRDC], announced today that ex-Lieutenant Colonel Gringo Honasan is in the country, hiding in Metro Manila.

However, other ultrarightists, including former Air Force Colonel Eduardo Red Kapunan, are hiding in different provinces. Cunanan doubts that Kapunan is being protected by his relatives in Davao City or Cotabato. He reiterated that the ultrarightist threat has been neutralized, although a number of key leaders are still being pursued. Cunanan assured that operations for the capture of rebel fugitives will continue and they will soon fall into the authorities' hands.

Aside from this, Cunanan also confirmed reports that the New People's Army [NPA] assassins are now starting to infiltrate Metro Manila to evade the intensified military antiinsurgency operations in northern and southern Luzon.

The NCRDC chief also said that they are closely monitoring the growing number of Sparrow members in anticipation of terrorist attacks in Metro Manila. He said that the military will launch a preemptive operation to thwart any plans of the communist rebels.

Cunanan also announced that the deployment of NCRDC strike forces, including the 72d Infantry Battalion from Abra last week, will not weaken his command.According to him, the redeployment is only temporary and any unit that is sent to the countryside will go back to the NCRDC after its mission has been accomplished.

Mitra Says Environmental Group Communist Front

HK0703050691 Quezon City MALAYA in English 7 Mar 91 p 2

[By Carlito Pablo]

[Text] Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. yesterday accused the Haribon Foundation Inc., a well-established environmental group, as a front organization of communist insurgents.

At least 15 Haribon members were arrested last month in Palawan and are facing subversion charges for alleged membership in the New People's Army [NPA].

"Nagkaroon lang ng NPA sa Palawan nang dumaling ang Haribon," [Palawan started having NPA members when Haribon was formed] Mitra said. He added that based on his talks with military officials in the island during his recent visit there, there are conclusive evidence providing their involvement in rebel activities in the province.

Haribon president Maximo Kalaw Jr. described Mitra's allegation as "funny," saying the speaker does not have any reason to feel "too insecure" with his group's activities in Palawan.

"We are a legitimate organization involved in legitimate advocacy of environmental protection. It appears that Mitra has vested interests in the continuing plunder of Palawan," Kalaw said.

Kalaw said the arrest of the Haribon members was meant to harass the organization after it exposed a bigtime syndicate in the island smuggling highly-priced kamagong logs to Sabah.

Haribon has long earned the ire of Mitra whom it accuses of giving political support to wanton logging operations in the island. It is currently conducting a signature campaign to ban all logging operations in Palawan.

Mitra, however, said, "We do not need Haribon in Palawan to teach us how to protect our forests. That rightfully belongs to Palawenos."

But Kalaw noted that its 300 volunteers in the island are all native Palawenos.

Manila-Based NPA Leader Captured 5 March

HK0603133991 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0715 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Another leader of the New People's Army [NPA] was captured yesterday afternoon according to PNP [Philippine National Police] Chief Cesar Nazareno.

The captured CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA leader was identified as Eduardo Carlos Alcober, alias Roy and RV. Alcober was arrested by elements of the Police Intelligence Service Command, led by Colonel Wilfredo Cruz, near Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas Avenue. A .38 caliber revolver with six live rounds of ammunition was confiscated from Alcober.

Nazareno said that Alcober was a member of the special planning and operations section of the south sector command of the Alex Boncayao Brigade. He belonged to the hit squad operating in Metro Manila, particularly in Las Pinas and Muntinlupa. Alcober was presented to the press at Camp Crame.

Alcober is understood to be a suspect in the killings of former labor leader Oscar Lazaro and two other leaders who were at the labor convention in Ateneo last year. Alcober's arrest is expected to trigger terrorist activities aimed at avenging his arrest and seizing arms from the military. The military, however, expressed its readiness for such an eventuality as PNP Chief Nazareno called on it to reinvigorate its efforts against the insurgents.

Militiaman Killed by Suspected Rebels in Bataan

HK0803113591 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] One militiaman died and one policeman was injured when they were attacked by a group suspected to be communist rebels in Marivelez, Bataan.

Bataan Police Superintendent Enrique Galang said that Rodolfo Esperon, a member of the CAFGU [Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit], died, while police officer Juan Nicolas Mallari of Mariveles Police Station was seriously wounded in the stomach.

According to police reports, Mallari and Esperon and three other militiamen were riding in a passenger jeepney headed for a mission when they were welcomed by the rebels with gunfire. The authorities launched an extensive manhunt for the armed communist rebels.

Supporters of Mindanao Rebellion Face Charges

HK0803052791 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The Department of Justice formally filed charges of inciting rebellion against 30 supporters of the Mindanao separatist movement at Butuan City's regional trial court. According to Assistant Chief Prosecutor Aurelio Trampe, the rebellion charges against the supporters of Ruben Canoy, of the Mindanao Independent Movement, show that not only Canoy and media personalities were punished for the Mindanao rebellion.

Trampe says they will file charges against many other personalities once the special prosecution team that was sent to Mindanao ends its preliminary investigation. He added that the trial for illegal possession of firearms against Zambales Governor Vicente Magsaysay and his brother Gil Magsaysay will begin 18 March. They were charged with illegal possession of firearms in furtherance of rebellion after authorities confiscated various types of firearms in the governor's house in Castillejos, Zambales.

Five Killed in Raid of NPA in Nueva Ecija

HK0603152591 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Five were killed and one injured during a clash between members of the Philippine National Police [PNP] Intelligence Operations Unit and New People's Army [NPA] rebels. The encounter took place at Sitio Bugsoy, Nueva Ecija. One of the fatalities was identified as Staff Sergeant Joel Lacson and the injured was Technical Sergeant Manolo Abrena. The four other fatalities belong to the rebel side. According to investigations, the clash occurred during the raid undertaken by the PNP elements on a meeting of 20 rebels.

Two Rebel Officers Arrested in Lanao 2 Mar

HK0503062991 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 5 Mar 91

[Text] Two rightist leaders were captured at a bus terminal in Lanao del Norte Saturday [2 March], it has been revealed by AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Ex-army captin Albert Yen and Allan Paje, a former manager of the National Steel Corporation in Iligan City, were arrested in a bus depot in Maranding in Lanao del Norte.

The suspected putschists were on their way to Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur when intelligence agents collared them. They were unarmed but yielded betamax tapes with recorded messages of rebel leader Gregorio Honasan.

Yen was a former army scout ranger who was also involved in the failed December coup in 1989. He participated in the Hotel Intercontinental siege during which opposition leaders held a press conference. He was also at the Hotel Nikko during the seven-day Makati siege.

He escaped before the rebels in Makati gave up and went to northern Luzon where he took part in the mini-revolt staged by former governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Yen, a reserve officer who has a P100,000 [Philippine peso] reward for his arrest, was also suspected to have taken part in the Cagayan de Oro uprising last year.

Paje was described as a PMA [Philippine Military Academy] dropout who later became a businessman.

He was a department manager of the National Steel Corporation in Iligan City when the Mindanao uprising led by former colonel Alexander Noble erupted in October last year.

Army Overruns 2 Rebel Camps in Negros Occidental

HK0503040091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 5 Mar 91 p 6

[By Carla Gomez]

[Text] Bacolod City—The Army overran two rebel camps in Negros Occidental Sunday. Four soldiers were killed in the raid.

Brig Gen Raymundo Jarque, Negros island command chief, said the raids were part of "Operation Summer Storm" which he launched in the island March 1.

The four soldiers were killed when the troops battled the rebels manning an operations command camp in Barangay Aghoy in Candoni. Their names were not immediately available.

In Sitio Calingay, Barangay Caliling, Cauayan, troops raided a rebel communications center and seized radio equipment, solar panel chargers, subversive documents and a radio scanner.

The soldiers were backed by an army attack helicopter. Maj Edwin Recabe, Negros island command spokesman, said scores of rebels were believed to have been killed but no bodies were recovered.

Casualities Reported for 'Summer Offensive '91'

HK0403065991 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 22

[By O. Masaganda]

[Text] Naga City—The rebel New People's Army (NPA) has suffered heavy losses since it launched its "summer offensive '91" nationwide last January, military sources said here yesterday.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said the communist guerrillas suffered fatalities totalling 106, while 144 guerrillas were wounded and 14 captured in various encounters during the last two months.

On the government side, 26 troopers and policemen were killed, 34 were wounded and four were abducted.

The rebels conducted five big offensive operations, among them the assault on the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters in La Castilla, Sorsogon, last Jan. 12.

NPA guerrillas again ambushed troopers from the 1st Infantry Battalion in Ragay, Camarines Sur, last Jan. 26. A certain Lt. Gatdula and three other troopers were killed in the ambush.

Last Feb. 16, some 200 NPAs encountered the Cordillera Regional Command (Crecom) field force of the PNP, in Lacub.

Crecom commander Juanito Aquias reported that the rebels timed their attack during the 86th foundation day of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) when many officers are in Baguio City attending the rites.

He added that since the beginning of the year, Crecom troopers have killed some 60 rebels.

In Cagawit, Surigao del Sur, 500 communist guerrillas attacked the headquarters of the 426th PNP Company. Thirty rebels were killed in the operation, while the goverment suffered two policemen killed and 14 others wounded. Four members of the 426th PNP Company were also abducted by the rebels.

The officers of the 426th PNP Company, 2nd Lt. Elmar Sillador, and CIC [Constable 1st Class] Zyrel Zunico were promoted on the spot by Maj. Gen. Cesar P. Nazareno, PNP chief.

The latest assault of the NPA against the Armed Forces was last Feb. 21 when elements of the 5th regional special action force were ambushed in Pilar, Sorsogon. Team leaders Lts. Romeo Liclayu and Leopoldo Cabanag were wounded together with Alfredo de Leon, a former Capcom trooper, and nine other men.

Liclayu, C2C [Constable 2d Class] Gener Goyes, Moises Saludo and De Leon were airlifted to the PNP Headquarters in Quezon City.

Also in Camarines Sur, a passenger jeep was attacked by a rebel who threw a grenade, killing one Army trooper. Army brigade chief Col. Victor Mayo said that Philippine Army chief Maj. Gen. Lisandro Abadia gave assistance to the civilian casualties in the attack.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos was briefed by Army and PNP field commanders in Region 5 in Naga City last Saturday.

Chief Superintendent Miguel Fontanilla, PNP chief for the Bicol region, told Ramos that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA in his area has suffered setbacks.

Fontanilla cited the capture of Efren de Mesa and wife Emilyn in Daet, by elements of the Camarines Norte PNP led by Superintendent Manuel Porras.

De Mesa is identified by Fontanilla as a member of the executive committee of CPP Southern Tagalog region. He had P120,000-price [peso] on his head.

Fontanilla also informed Ramos that one of the top commanders of the NPA in Sorsogon and his aide were also captured.

Commission Confirms Orbos, Biazon Appointments

HK0703050291 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 7 Mar 91 p 3

[By Johanna Son]

[Text] The Commission on Appointments (CA) unanimously confirmed yesterday the appointment of Oscar Orbos as the President's executive secretary.

In giving its nod to Orbos' nomination, the CA said it hoped that the former Pangasinan representative and ex-transportation secretary would usher in warmer relations between Malacanang and Congress.

Orbos, a former assistant majority leader at the House, is a member of the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] headed by Sen Neptali Gonzales and Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr.

Ten CA members, including Sen Ernesto Maceda who gave Orbos a tough time, took to the floor to back nomination of Orbos who replaced Catalino Macaraig.

"I hope (Orbos) will be a useful liaison between Congress and the presidency," Sen Edgardo Angara said.

"Orbos has shown that he can communicate (with legislators), that he is reachable and that he has a capacity for consensus building," said Sen John Osmena.

Other CA members reminded Orbos to just do his job and not to go overboard with his promises to bring the government closer to the people.

The CA also confirmed yesterday the promotion to full general of Armed Forces chief Rodolfo Biazon and his appointment as chief-of-staff for the remaining six weeks before he retires, although some senators believe his tour of duty could still be extended.

In her nomination letter to the CA, President Aquino has appointed Biazon as AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] head from Jan 22 to April 14, Biazon's date of retirement. Biazon was promoted to lieutenant general only last December.

Osmena insisted that Biazon's tour of duty may no longer be extended because Mrs Aquino's letter specified Biazon's term.

But Sen Mamintal Tamano, chairman of the CA committee on defense, said that the President had the power to extend the stay of the chief of staff.

Senate President and CA chairman Jovito Salonga cut short Osmena's complaint by stating that "we are confirming what is contained in the President's letter."

Also during yesterday's CA hearing, the commission deferred for the second week the promotion to brigadier general of Norberto Lisa, the head of the Traffic Management Command [TMC] whose members allegedly shot dead by mistake an architect last Jan 30.

Angara asked the CA not to confirm Lina as yet, because "we should not reward (this incident)."

The family of slain architect Benjamin Go, who was gunned down by TMC cops in Makati, has accused Lina of not cooperating in efforts to prosecute the erring lawmen.

Ramos Seeks Political Party for 1992 Election

HK0703040491 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 7 Mar 91 p 3

[By Johanna Son and Manny Mogato]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos yesterday denied reports that he had joined the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—Struggle of Philippine Democrats], but strongly hinted that he was indeed scouting for a political party in time for the 1992 elections.

Ramos, in a candid interview at the Senate, also said that his decision to join party would have to be done at the right time and with the knowledge of "my boss," President Aquino.

"There's nothing definite as far as I'm concerned. My moves have all been exploratory," he said, in reaction to reports that he was joining the LDP, the party of another presidential contender, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr.

Ramos said he had been in touch with leaders of the LDP and other political parties. He, however, said that he wanted to do his job "well" as defense secretary and did not want to be accused of politicking at a time of crisis.

"There are two considerations. We are a team in the Cabinet and we must not be perceived as abandoning our job in the Cabinet in favor of a political agenda at this time," he said.

"There is also the advice of my boss, President Aquino, and I should not take any actions without her knowledge," he said.

Asked if he was inclined to join a party, Ramos said: "It's not just the joining, but also the timing. In any case, I should make the proper announcement in due time."

A close aide of Ramos said five factors would determine whether the defense secretary would seek the presidency in 1992: The results of a survey Ramos had commissioned to assess his chances as a presidential contender; the signature campaign by his supporters; an endorsement from the President; a political party; and a successor at the defense department who would continue his programs and policies.

Ramos has reportedly received the results of the survey giving him a fair chance to win in next year's elections. Some three million signatures collected by his supporters, the Friends of Ramos, have been also forwarded to his office.

Ramos, however, said that the results of the survey and the signature campaign have not fully convinced him to run for the presidency.

Ramos' followers said the Edsa hero would most likely announce his plans between March 17, his 63rd birthday, and the end of April, a year before the 1992 elections.

National Police Defines Functions, Structure

HK0803035691 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Mar 91 p 6

[By Dave Veridiano]

[Text] Philippine National Police [PNP] authorities have released a primer on the creation of the PNP and copies have been distributed early this month as guide for all PNP personnel.

The 34-page primer on Republic Act 6975, the Philippine National Police Act of 1991, was in question-and-answer format to enable the PNP personnel to fully understand the newly-created national police organization.

The primer, written by a committee of 13 PNP personnel headed by Senior Superintendent Jaime M. Liwanag, defines the PNP functions under the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The head of the PNP will have the rank of director general and also shall have the position title of chief of the PNP. Its equivalent rank in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is four-star general.

The second in command of the PNP with the rank of deputy director general, shall have the title deputy chief of the PNP. Its equivalent rank in the AFP is three-star general.

The third in command with a rank of deputy director general shall be the deputy chief for operations, with also an equivalent rank of three-star general.

The fourth in command will head the directorial staff with the title of chief of the directorial staff, with an equivalent rank of two-star general.

The heads of various divisions in the directoral staff shall have the rank of director, with the position title of the directorial staff of their respective functional division—Personnel, Intelligence, Operations, Logistics, Police Relations, Comptrollership, Investigation, and Plans. Their equivalent rank will be two-star generals.

The head of the National Capital Region [NCR] with the rank of director shall assume the position title of NCR director, with an equivalent rank of two-star general.

The heads of the regional offices with the rank of chief superintendent shall have the position title of regional director. The equivalent rank is brigadier general.

The heads of the provincial offices with the rank of senior superintendent shall be known as the provincial director. The equivalent rank is colonel.

The heads of the district offices with the rank of senior superintendent shall be called district director. The equivalent rank is lieutenant colonel.

The heads of the municipality or city offices with the rank of chief inspector shall be known as the chief of police. The equivalent rank is major.

PNP rank classifications and their equivalent in the AFP:

—Director general: four-star general

—Deputy director general: three-star general (Lt. gen.)

—Director: two-star general (maj. gen.)

—Chief superintendent: brigadier general

—Senior superintendent: colonel

—Superintendent: lieutenant colonel

—Chief inspector: major

—Senior inspector: captain

—Inspector: lieutenant

—Senior police offier IV: master sergeant

—Senior police officer III: technical sergeant

—Senior police officer II: staff sergeant

—Senior police officer I: sergeant

—Police officer III: C1C [Constable 1st Class]

—Police officer II: C2C [Constable 2d Class]

—Police officer I: constable

Armed Forces Chief on Insulation From Politics

HK0803035491 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 8 Mar 91 p 8

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, expressed optimism yesterday that the military will soon be totally insulated from partisan politics.

After arrival honors at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, for the three-star general newly confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, Biazon said: "The soldiers are now more professional in their careers because of the regular orientations on the Constitution."

"We (at the AFP high command) are consistently reminding our men of what their roles should be in society," he added.

Biazon also said dismissed Army lieutenant colonel Gregorio Honasan of the outlawed Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People (RAM-SFP) might have adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude on the 1992 presidential elections.

He accused rebel military officers of deceiving the soldiers to pursue the political interests of some individuals.

"I see in the near future the military establishment free from the threats of the extremists," Biazon said.

Trade Surplus Reported With United Kingdom

HK0803052491 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 8 Mar 91 p 2

[By Andrew D. Magsambol]

[Text] While Philippine exports to the United Kingdom dropped a bit last year, the country continues to enjoy a trade surplus with the European nation, the latest overseas trade statistics provided by the British Embassy showed.

From January to October last year, Philippine imports from UK totalled 135 million pounds (around $259 million), 27% higher than the 107 million pounds (205 million) posted for the same period the previous year.

On the other hand, Philippine exports dipped by 6% to 191 million pounds, narrowing the surplus from pound 98 million in 1989 to 55.7 million pounds last year.

Historical data provied by the embassy revealed that the Philippines has been enjoying a favorable trade balance with the UK since 1982 with the highest surplus recorded in 1984 when it reached 108 million pounds.

The 100-million pound surplus was also posted in 1988 when balance of trade reached 103 million pound in RP's [Republic of Philippines] favor.

Trade Goods

The biggest import items from UK were electrical machinery, comprising 19.2% of the total. Other major items were power generating machines, specialized machinery, beverages such as whisky and chemical materials.

On the other hand, major Philippine export items to the European country during the 10-month period were led by electrical machinery, followed next by garments, cornering 19.6% of the total.

The rest includes cork and wood products, footwear, furniture and parts and marine products.

R.J. Cork, first secretary of the commercial section of the British Embassy, attributed the dip in trade activity between the two countries, particularly from the end of UK in its trade interest due to political, economic and other turbulances suffered by the country last year. He expressed optimism that the usual level would be achieved with the possible normalization of the Philippine situation this year.

There are two English trade missions scheduled to arrive in Manila this year. They are the Engineering Industries Association, slated to arrive in September, and the Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce, bound to come in November. Both groups will be seeking to establish commercial relations through joint ventures or trade ties, Mr. Cork said.

Reduction of 9 Percent Import Levy Announced

HK0803051691 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 8 Mar 91 pp 1, 10

[By staff members Johanna Son and Arleen Chipongian with Redemptio Anda]

[Text] The government will begin a "gradual reduction" of the controversial 9% import levy on April 5, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said yesterday.

He told the Senate committees on finance and economic affairs that the levy might be reduced to 8% or 7%, since the government posted a P3.4-million [Philippine pesos] surplus in revenues and saved a significant amount of money.

Estanislao noted that as of Feb. 15, government revenues of P29.2 billion had exceeded government expenses of P25.8 billion.

He added that the government surplus would continue to grow next month, when the people were expected to pay their income tax.

The government earlier promised to phase out entirely the levy no later than June 30, 1992, after foreign lenders, businessmen and government agencies had complained that the levy discouraged investments.

Executive officials said the levy, imposed by an executive order last January, was originally 5%, but was raised to 9% after Congress had blocked tax measures recommended by Malacanang last year. The measures included the alien legalization act, amnesty on payment of outstanding customs duties and the foreign investments act.

Malacanang had expected to earn P20 billion in revenues from the import levy. But it later agreed to a 1% reduction of the levy for every P2.6 billion raised from new tax measures passed by Congress.

Estanislao said the government expected an P8-billion deficit from the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Internal Revenue, but both had performed well.

"If these trends continue, then we can go on with a series of reductions of the levy until the entire 9% is lifted," Estanislao said.

He added that the Department of Finance would present a definite recommendation on the import-levy reduction by April 15.

Senators said they welcomed the good news. But in a news conference, Sen. Neptali Gonzales lamented: "Although it is a temporary measure, (the import levy) has already caused permanent aberrations. It has decreased our imports, caused unemployment and pushed up prices."

April 15, the last day for filing income tax, coincides with the start of the review by the International Monetary Fund of the Philippine economic stabilization program.

The Fund, together with lenders and donors, have urged Manila to replace the levy with other ways of raising revenues.

The Senate finance and economic affairs committees included the levy in its investigation on which IMF conditions in the stabilization program it could deviate from.

Gonzales quoted Estanislao as saying the IMF conditions were "not intractable." In cutting government spending, for instance, he said: "There is a lot of flexibility as long as the overall goals are reached."

Speaking before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines yesterday, Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia said conventional revenue measures must replace the import levy.

"Failure to replace this levy with new tax measures will result in substantial revenue losses which can make fiscal management more difficult starting next year," Cuisia said.

Cuisia said he was confident that Congress would pass new measures that would replace the levy "with more permanent taxes."

He added, however, that Congress would have to decide which of the new measures, mostly aimed at the rich, have to be passed immediately.

At the House, Rep. Ramon Bagatsing attributed the government failure to coordinate its economic policies to the refusal of President Aquino to join a political party that would back up these policies.

Constraints to Economic Growth Development Cited

HK0803051891 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 8 Mar 91 p 2

[BY Alex B. Reyes]

[Text] The country's future growth and development will be constrained by four factors, according to a World Bank [WB] report by WB president Barber B. Conable.

The report, part of the evaluation of the $158-million environment WB loan, identified the four constraints as:

—poor infrastructure, particularly in power generation and distribution, transportation and telecommunications;

—inadequate levels of domestic resource mobilization;

—institutional weaknesses of government agencies; and

—continued high population growth at about 2.4%.

But even with the growth constraints, the report said the most promising source of future growth is the Philippines' well-educated and abundant labor.

"...in the past investment in human capital has produced a labor force which is well-trained and whose real wages are below those of neighboring countries. Given the continued preferential treatment in access to United States markets, the Philippines has potential to expand its exports of both services and manufactured goods."

The report noted that labor costs in the country are among the lowest in Southeast Asia and are far below those of Malaysia and Thailand.

"The Government's immediate objective is to sustain and increase the growth of the economy, powered principally by the private sector, through a labor-intensive, export-led strategy, while attempting to redress the worse aspects of poverty through direct intervention in selected areas," the report said.

According to macroeconomic projections accompanying the report, gross domestic product is expected to increase by 2.5% this year and 4% next year, while gross national product will grow by 1.7% and 3.9%.

Exports will expand by 10.6% in 1991, declining to 8.9% in 1992, while imports will grow by 4.2% and 8.3%.

The report also said the deterioration in the international environment means the achievement of the country's growth goals will require a higher level of external aid than originally forecast.

Thailand

Gen Sunthon on Martial Law, Chatchai's Release

BK0803134791 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Interview by General Sunthon Khongsomphong to unidentified reporters on 8 March]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Sunthon in progress] ...regarding General Chatchai's release, we have been preparing to effect his release but give us some time. What was your other question?

[Reporter] About martial law.

[Sunthon] Martial law will have to remain in effect a while longer because if we lift it there will be activities which will leave us no time to do other things. All of our time will have to be devoted to countering the activities of the opposition.

[Reporter] Will you take any action?

[Sunthon] No, if there is no action on their [the opposition] part. You must understand that we do not intend to persecute anyone. As long as we have cooperation from every side, we will not put any power in our hands. If they act in menancing ways, it will be necessary for us to use the power of martial law to deal with them. [end recording]

Gen. Sunthon said the National Peacekeeping Assembly will pick members of the National Legislative Assembly from people in various occupations and noted that, because of their experience, former members of Parliament could be picked to help draft the constitution, but they must not become obstacles to the drafting process which would slow down the process and prevent the National Peacekeeping Assemply from delivering on the promise it gave to the people.

Suchinda: Chatchai To Be Released in 2 Days

BK0803140091 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] General Suchinda Khraprayun, army commander and vice chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly, spoke to reporters after a golf game between the Thai and Singapore armed forces today. Gen. Suchinda said he is no longer involved in political affairs because the government has been formed and, therefore, political affairs would now be the responsibility of the government. However, since he has been given the task of overseeing certain ministries, there would be consultations with the government.

Regarding when Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan would be released, Gen. Suchinda said the release will be made within two days, as he had said to reporters earlier.

Chatchai Release, Speedy Investigation Urged

BK0803033991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 91 p A11

[Editorial: "Proving critics wrong"]

[Text] Since a civilian prime minister has been appointed and a civilian-dominated Cabinet has been formed it's time the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] considers additional positive steps to restore normalcy and increase both its credibility and that of the civilian caretaker administration.

First of all Gen Chatchai Chunhawan and his men should be released from military custody as soon as possible. The ousted 71-year-old premier couldn't possibly be a threat to anyone, especially now that most of his advisers are either in hiding or have been detained by the military. His bank accounts and properties have been frozen as he faces an investigation by the anti-corruption Sitthi Committee.

The investigation alone is not enough justification for continuing Chatchai's detention, now in its 14th day. All the others in his entourage were even not on the Sitthi Committee's list, except one of Chatchai's key aides, ex-senator Pitak Indaraviriyanant. Moreover, none of the former ministers targeted for investigation by the omnipotent committee have been arrested either.

Critics of the NPKC have claimed that Chatchai and his military aide Maj Gen Manun Rupkachon, now a fugitive wanted in connection with the alleged 1982 assassination conspiracies, still have "considerable" military support among the cavalry units. Seizing on the fact that none of the cavalry units were involved in the coup, these critics have, in private conversation and anonymous leaflets, tried to spread the rumour that Chatchai and Manun could still stage a counter-coup to restore his elected civilian administration.

The rumour is purely wishful thinking. No cavalry units were used in seizing government power because army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, a key leader in the NPKC, is an artillery man by training. So he called out anti-aircraft artillery units and some infantry units in Bangkok. True, tank and cavalry units were common fixtures in the coups of the past. But no tanks were needed this time as Chatchai was seized at the airport and the NPKC correctly foresaw no resistance.

Apart from being a good humanitarian gesture, releasing Chatchai and his men now would be a public relations coup for the NPKC. I would be further proof that the NPKC has indeed been in complete control of the situation from the outset and is not afraid of the ex-premier or his men.

Since the Sitthi Committee is still investigating alleged corruption in the Chatchai administration, one possible trade-off for their release could be a pledge from Chatchai and his men to stay in Thailand for the time being. Chatchai and some of his men may have to answer questions by the committee. Anyone found to have been involved in any major corruption scandals will likely face criminal charges and be tried in a military court under martial law.

The Sitthi Committee should, therefore, speed up the investigation so that any politicians suspected of enriching themselves through corruption can be brought to trial promptly. This will also help the rest found not guilty by the committee to return to normal life.

Though the country has been under martial law since the coup two weeks ago, most people here do not feel its impact. But the mere mention of martial law can scare away a lot of potential foreign investors and tourists unfamiliar with Thai politics. A large number of Western governments also seem to believe that an "elected civilian" administration—regardless of how corrupt it might be—is still preferable to an unelected administration or a military junta.

Article 27 of the interim constitution gives both the prime minister and the NPKC chairman virtually absolute power to deal with emergencies. This power, which certainly includes the legal authority to mete out summary execution in extreme cases, should be enough deterrent to anyone contemplating subversion or political assassination.

Therefore, after the investigation and the trial of suspected corrupt politicians, martial law must be lifted. Further delays would be hard to justify.

Prime Minister Promises Honesty in Administration

BK0803095691 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun by an unidentified reporter on 8 March, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Anan] Yesterday, the entire cabinet had an audience with his majesty the king. The king delivered a speech, which impressed all of us. All the cabinet ministers took an oath of allegiance before his majesty promising to perform duties with honesty, integrity, and loyalty to the head of state. That is the promise made before the king. Therefore, I am confident that all the ministers in my cabinet will carry out their work, which will yield results in the future, on the principles of honesty, benefit to the country, and social justice. This is my expectation.

[Reporter] Will the cabinet members have to show their assets?

[Anan] If we have to, I think we all would have no objection. Anyway, I will have to consult the permanent government officials first, because I do not know about the rules and regulations on this matter.

Foreign Minister Gives Guidelines on Policy

BK0803073591 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin granted an interview to reporters on the occasion of the assumption of his duty at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

He said that, as the prime minister had stated earlier, the present government is an interim government; therefore, to perform its duty in a limited time is a challenge. The prime minister and the military share the desire to build the positive image of the government and confidence within the international community that the present administration of the country will quickly lead to a democratic system.

At the same time, the minister added, Thailand must build confidence in cooperation with other countries, which will focus on economy and investment. In particular, we want the superpowers, like the United States and Japan, as well as the EC, to invest more in Thailand.

Asked if he has any worries about carrying out the government's duty in ways previously mentioned, the foreign minister admitted that he has some worries about how to build a solid image for the country within a limited time.

When asked whether he will visit the ASEAN countries, as is traditional practice by a newly appointed foreign minister, Asa said he may not do so because there is not much time left. However, Thailand will continue to cooperate with the ASEAN countries, he concluded.

Foreign Minister Meets ASEAN, U.S. Envoys

BK0803145891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek reported that ASEAN ambassadors to Thailand had called on Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin this afternoon to congratulate him on his appointment. They also expressed satisfaction with and understanding of the past happenings and the formation of a government. On the occasion, the foreign minister said that the foreign policy will not be changed. He also thanked the other ASEAN countries for understanding the steps leading to a democratic system. Since the ASEAN countries have understood Thailand well, he therefore asks cooperation from them to help explain the situation to other friendly countries. The foreign minister said that since he has other important work to do, he will not yet visit other ASEAN countries. He will send messages to pay respects and introduce himself first. And, he will visit those countries when there is a chance.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also reported that U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Daniel O'Donohue had called on the foreign minister this afternoon. The U.S. ambassador told the foreign minister that the United States is satisfied with the persons in the new cabinet and is ready to provide cooperation for improving Thailand's image. Regarding the suspension of U.S. assistance to Thailand, the U.S. ambassador said that it was done under U.S. laws. However, the United States will try to find ways to assist some projects of Thailand. During the meeting, the U.S. ambassador also handed over 628,000 baht to help the victims of a fire accident at Khlong Toei.

Editorial Remarks on U.S. 'Meddling'

BK0803075391 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 8 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Role of a Friendly Country"]

[Text] It is a fact of life that as members of the international community, all countries must maintain direct or indirect relationships of one sort or another with each other. The ultimate goal of international relations is the physical and mental happiness of mankind as a whole.

As member of the international community, Thailand cannot avoid relations with other countries. However, foreign countries play varying roles toward Thailand, depending on the world situation. The internal political change which resulted from the National Peacekeeping Council's takeover of administrative power from the government of General Chatchai Chunhawan has drawn a different reaction from abroad.

The United States immediately announced a cut in economic and military assistance to Thailand, based on the principles of its laws pertaining to the promotion of a democratic administrative system. Japan's reaction followed, and China became the first country to recognize the Thai Government under Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

Inasmuch as no country can isolate itself from the rest of the world, the attitude of other countries is an issue which our national administrators must take into consideration in terms of the direction and goals of the domestic political change that occurred so that we can live in honor and prestige in the international arena.

It is regrettable that certain friendly countries have played an excessive role that amounted to interference in Thailand's internal affairs by meddling and pressuring the sovereign Thai Government to follow their wishes.

From reports in the past few days, there is clear evidence of an exercise of inappropriate U.S. diplomacy by U.S. Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue, who contacted certain Thai power groups in ways that amounted to a clear interference in Thailand's internal affairs in contradiction of the norms of coexistence between countries.

Certainly, the takeover of power to topple the democratic administration is to be condemned in principle. But in reality, is it not also evil for the state power to be used behind a mask of democracy by national administrators whose souls are imbued with dictatorship?

On many occasions the United States played a major role in coups in Thailand and other countries. The U.S. attitude toward the latest power takeover in Thailand, therefore, does not merely reflect its feelings that arise from the fact that the National Peacekeeping Council did not consult with it as a superpower and Big Daddy of the free world.

The Thai people thank the United States very much for its appeal for democracy and the Thai people's liberty and prosperity and a return of power to the people as promised by the coup party. But no one will commend it in any way for its attempts to interfere in Thailand's internal affairs in order to help certain individuals because such an action amounts to meddling in the internal affairs of an independent country, which although small, has no less honor and prestige than the United States itself.

New Foreign Minister: 'Good Image' Top Priority

BK0803024591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 91 p A3

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Newly-appointed Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said the top foreign policy priority of the caretaker government would be to create a good image of Thailand and build up confidence among the international community following the recent bloodless coup.

Speaking to reporters before an audience with His Majesty the King, Asa said the interim government had limited time to do its job.

"The most important task ahead is to create a good image and build up (international) confidence," he said.

Asa, a former Foreign Ministry permanent secretary, declined to comment on how the image of the country may have been affected by the coup. But he said the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) had fulfilled a pledge that the new Cabinet would "comprise both civilians and capable personalities."

"The move has been explained to foreign countries—it is in the right direction," he said, adding that "many countries also recognize" the new Cabinet line-up.

The NPKC pledged after toppling the elected government of Chatchai Chunhawan to give the interim government full authority in running the country.

Asa, who resigned from the foreign service in 1989 to join the private sector, declined to talk about the future direction of the Thai foreign policy, saying he needed first to consult colleagues and officials at the Foreign Ministry. He hope that Thailand would continue to attract more foreign investment and tourists.

The 55-year-old minister said for the time being he did not have any plans for official visits overseas.

Asa will start his work today at the Foreign Ministry. He will have a meeting with all the ministry's officials at 9.30 am before holding talks with the directors general at 10 am.

In a separate interview yesterday, PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson said he would submit his resignation today as permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry to pave the way for his "friend" to take up the highest permanent ministry post.

The new permanent secretary has yet to be chosen but there has been widespread speculation that Ambassador to the United States Witthaya Wetchachiwa will fill the slot.

Kasemsamoson, who is scheduled to retire this October from the foreign service, said he had no advice for his successor or the new foreign minister as they had "all been friends for a long time"

"We are all friends and have been working for such a long time that we know each other very well," he said.

Kasemsamoson, who is one of the four PM's Office ministers in the interim government, said he would handle both domestic and international affairs for the office.

—Bangkok-based diplomats yesterday welcomed the new Cabinet line-up and praised the new prime minister's ability to put together "an excellent" government.

Prime Minister Says Policy Ready 'Next Week'

BK0803015191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 91 p A1

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Excerpt] His Majesty the King yesterday encouraged the newly-appointed Cabinet led by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to work for national stability and the people's well-being during one of Thailand's most crucial periods leading up to a promised general election.

In his speech to Anan and his 34 Cabinet members during an oath-taking at Phuping Palace in Chiang Mai, His Majesty urged the ministers to do their best to solve problems facing the country.

His Majesty also instructed the Cabinet members "to set good examples" for government oficials and the public.

The Cabinet, he said, played a crucial role in formulating national policy.

His Majesty granted the audience to the Cabinet at 4.30 pm yesterday following widely positive reaction to the prime minister's choices which included highly-recognized technocrats, professionals and business figures.

The interim Cabinet, which has somewhere between six and 14 months in office, is facing the difficult task of regaining foreign investors' confidence about the continuity of Thailand's economic policy while making full use of the opportunities arising from the end of the Gulf War.

The Cabinet will be functioning under martial law and a provisional Constitution; which still entrusts the military National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) with the ultimate power over the Cabinet.

One thorny issue facing the NPKC and the interim Cabinet is the fate of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, detained since the military deposed him after the coup.

Anan told reporters after arriving at Don Muang military airprot from Chiang Mai that the first Cabinet meeting was scheduled for Monday. He added that his Cabinet would meet at least once a week.

"All Cabinet members must do their homework to ensure that no unscreened proposals slip through into the Cabinet agenda," the prime minister said.

He said the secretary-general of the Cabinet would send all proposals in the agenda of the previous administration back to new ministers who would decide whether they want to resubmit them to the Cabinet.

Anan said he would allow all Cabinet members a free hand in dealing with their ministerial affairs.

On the formulation of his government's policy, the prime minister said all ministers would be asked to submit their proposed policies to be considered by the three deputy prime ministers, who would work closely with the military council.

The national policy is expected to be ready by the end of next week, he said. [passage omitted]

Anan Appoints Secretary, Deputy Secretaries

BK0803030691 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has issued Prime Minister's Office Order No. 124/1991 dated 7 March 1991 appointing Sathaphon Kawitanon as secretary general to the prime minister and Prime Minister's Office Order 125/1991 dated 7 March 1991 appointing Suwit Yotmani and Wit Rayananon deputy secretaries general for political affairs to the prime minister.

Meanwhile, General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA], performing the prime minister's duty, on 5 March 1991 issued Prime Minister's Office Order No. 123/1991 appointing Group Captain Sophon Suwannaruchi as secretary general of the Cabinet.

Duties Allocated to 3 Deputy Prime Ministers

BK0803133691 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Sano Unakun told reporters that he met with the prime minister at Government House this morning to discuss the allocation of duties for the deputy prime ministers. The duties for the deputy prime ministers are divided into three areas—economic, security and foreign, and social and legal affairs. He said that he will look after economic affairs. Deputy Prime Minister Police General Phao Sarasin will oversee security and foreign affairs, while Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan will look after social and legal affairs. Deputy Prime Minister Sano said that economic affairs will involve the Finance Ministry; the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry; the Industry Ministry; the Commerce Ministry; the Communications Ministry; and the Science, Technology, and Energy Ministry. Moreover, it also includes some agencies of the Prime Minister's Office, such as the Budget Bureau, the National Economic and Social Development Board, and the Board of Investment.

The deputy prime minister also said that the cabinet will hold its first meeting on the afternoon on 11 March to discuss the works and the allocation of duties in detail. Because the cabinet has a limited time, it will take prompt action in works so that concrete achievement will be seen.

New Finance Minister Favors Fiscal Discipline

BK0803043991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 91 pp B1, B10

[Text] Finance Minister Suthi Singsane yesterday stressed that he will try to maintain fiscal and monetary discipline, solve the prevailing economic problems and strengthen the base on which economic growth can be sustained.

Following a meeting with the National Peacekeeping Council Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and Cabinet colleagues, he said that ensuring continued stability in fiscal and monetary affairs is the priority objective which is to be followed by finding solutions to prevailing economic problems.

He identified the country's deficits in balance of trade and current accounts as the urgent issues which will be tackled by the new government. Balance of trade and current account deficits in 1990 amounted to Bt [Baht] 239 billion and Bt156 billion, respectively, but the balance of payments recorded a surplus of Bt57 billion due to large capital inflow and high interest rates in the domestic market.

In January this year, the twin deficits remained high, amounting to Bt23 billion and Bt13 billion, respectively, while balance of payments continued chalking up a surplus of Bt8.79 billion with a capital inflow at about Bt23.6 billion.

Other urgent issues which need scrutiny include the widening gap between savings and investment fund requirements and the import duty on steel rods, he said.

Suthi said that the Finance Ministry will strengthen the base for sustained economic growth even though the new government has only six-12 months to administer the cousntry.

Apart from Suthi, other economic ministers also came out with their policies and plan of action yesterday. Industry Minister Sippanon Ketuthat said his objective is to boost private enterprise in various sectors to increase the nation's industrial output.

The government will encourage fair competition with emphasis on product quality improvement to benefit domestic consumers and increase exports. He said that environmental protection would be given priority in industrial projects. Policies will be evolved to sustain efforts in spreading industrialization to the provinces and help income redistribution, he said.

Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said he will have to consult Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and Cabinet colleagues before deciding on policy matters. Amaret, who was also the commerce minister in the Chatchai II administration, is known to favour market-oriented policies with minimal government intervention.

Anat Apaphirom, new agriculture minister, said he will suspend the reforestation plan initiated by his predecessor and launch a study on forest encroachment and denuded forests before coming up with a forestry policy. His priority will be to ensure that there is enough for farmers in key agricultural provinces.

Meanwhile, Sirin Nimmanhemin, managing director of Krung Thai Bank, said that the single most important priority facing the new government is to restore the confidence of the international community in Thailand.

Interior Minister on Clean, Fair Elections

BK0803025791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 91 p A4

[By Sorayut Suthatsanachinda]

[Text] Newly-appointed Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi declared yesterday that his priority as caretaker of the powerful ministry was to make the general election, due within 14 months, a clean and fair one.

Gen Itsaraphong, deputy army commander-in-chief and secretary- general of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) that toppled the Chatchai government last month, said he was confident the chronic problem of vote-buying would be solved in the next election.

"I believe we will have concrete solutions to vote-buying because eliminating the problem is our main objective," Itsarapong said.

The NPKC had accused the Chatchai government of trying to consolidate their political base and establish a "parliamentary dictatorship" by bribing voters.

The military council's interim Constitution calls for the establishment of a temporary National Assembly whose main task is to create a permanent Constitution, expected to include safe-guards against vote-buying.

NPKC leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong said on Wednesday his council was in the process of selecting members of the National Assembly which will comprise up to 300 people.

Itsaraphong reiterated that the Interior Ministry, key organizer of the general election, would be neutral.

"I was appointed to this post (interior minister) because I don't have personal political interests. I don't need votes," he said.

Itsaraphong said the caretaker Cabinet set up on Wednesday would consider when political parties should be allowed to resume their activities.

The NPKC banned political activities of the parties immediately after it took power in a bloodless coup on Feb 23 and imposed martial law.

Itsarapong said he foresaw no problems in working relations with Interior Ministry officials, though he and both his two deputies were all NPKC men.

The minister said there would be no interference by the NPKC in the working level of the Interior Ministry.

"Interior Ministry officials are efficient. If they remain in line there won't be any problem," Itsaraphong said.

Forest Mining Projects 'Allegedly Approved'

BK0703072391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Mar 91 p B1

[Text] Agriculture Permanent Secretary Yukti Sarikaphuti, in his capacity as acting minister of the ministry prior to the appointment of a new administration, allegedly approved at least eight mining certificates in national forest reserves.

The approvals closely follow the determined push by the Department of Mineral Resources to persuade the Agriculture ministry to allow private mining companies to resume normal operations following the Chatchai administration's logging ban. In return, the companies had pledged to plant trees.

Sources said that the certificates were approved on Monday, Feb 25, the first working day after the military staged a surprise coup and dissolved the House of Parliament on the preceding Saturday.

Yukti, like the permanent secretaries of all other ministries, was charged by the military with performing all ministerial responsibilities until a provisional government was formed and a minister accredited to the Agriculture portfolio.

According to the sources, the mining certificates were approved even though agriculture and mineral resources officials have yet to complete the master plan on the zoning of reserved forest land, a crucial document that identifies the types and utilization of the land.

Yukti denied involvement in approving the certificates when asked by THE NATION, saying that he would be put into a difficult situation if he had signed them.

But the sources, who have seen the documents, alleged that the senior ministry official approved the applications of eight companies to explore mineral resources in six national parks around the country.

The eight companies and individuals reportedly awarded the contracts are Bunrot Brewery Co, Sophaphan Watcharaphong, Silasin Lampang (2522) Co, Cermas Co, Chaiya Yiamkoa, Chiam Yangchareon, Matan Wichitsrot and Sinrae Sahamit Agriculture Co.

They have been given permission to operate in reserved forest land in Chiang Rai, Chainat, Lampang, Tak, Ranong and Nakhon Si Thammarat. Most of the applications were filed late last year.

A senior forestry official criticized the approvals, saying that although it was in the acting minister's power to pass the mining requests, it was not an appropriate action given the lack of a clear-cut policy on the use of reserved forest land.

He said the decision on this crucial policy instead should have been left to the discretion of the accredited minister as a member of the provisional government.

Following last year's well-publicized arrest of Suan Kitti Reforestation Co workers for alleged encroachment on national forest land in Chachoengsao Province, the Agriculture Ministry was ordered by the Chatchai I administration to put the bakes on private reforestation and review the nation's forestry policy.

Consequently former agriculture minister Sanan Khachonprast assigned the Forest Department to conduct a study into the zoning of forest areas and corresponding uses in order to accommodate his policy to promote private reforestation, said a highly-placed ministry source who asked not to be named.

The zoning will determine areas to be reserved for economic use, conservation or agricultural land reform.

The original zoning study was publicly attacked by miners who wished to prospect for valuable mineral resources in forest areas. They successfully lobbied the Industry Ministry, which later decided to ask the Agriculture Ministry to review the zoning policy.

Sanan subsequently set up a tripartite committee comprising representatives from the Industry ministry's Department of Mineral Resources, the Agriculture Ministry's Forest Department and the national Environment Board to undertake the revision. The revised draft zoning is almost finished.

He also appointed a sub-committee chaired by Sa-nga Sapphasi, permanent secretary of the Science, Technology and Energy Ministry, to review the government's policy toward rehabilitation of denuded forest.

Sanan's two successors, Chuan Likpai of the Democrat party and Solidarity's Narong Wongwan who held the portfoio at the time of the coup, had been waiting for the tripartite sub-committee to conclude its study on the revised zoning.

Although Narong himself announced a revival of large private reforestation projects, he still had to wait for the zoning to be completed.

SIAM RAT Welcomes Installation of New Cabinet

BK0803112791 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 8 Mar 91 p 8

[Editorial: "To the New Cabinet"]

[Text] Thailand got a new cabinet on 6 March after the National Peacekeeping Council completed the selection of a prime minister on 2 March. This shows that the coup has enter another stage.

First of all, we would like to welcome the new prime minister and the new cabinet, which was set up in line with the procedures after a coup and considered correct in accordance with coup tradition.

After extending our congratulations, we would like to wish the new government to administer national affairs well as expected by the people and to last until the end of its term in accordance with democratic means.

The new cabinet is the first achievement of the new prime minister, Anan Panyarachun, and the National Peacekpeeing Assembly [NPA], who have tried their best to select 34 persons for cabinet posts. Every cabinet minister is regarded by the prime minister and the NPA as the person who has prestige, good reputation, qualification, and experiences. Moreover, the new prime minister, who has appointed most of the cabinet ministers by himself, has assured correspondents about the ability and honesty of all ministers.

We understand that this government under the leadership of Anan Panyarachun has a limited time. So, we hope that during this short period pending a new permanent constitution, the government will administer national affairs promptly and with their best capability for the sake of reputation of the cabinet ministers and the whole cabinet, which could be called as an provisional government set up in accordance with the procedures after the coup.

In fact, there are not many problems in our country. Even during the Chatchai II government, there was no major political crisis threatening the country's existence. Only some ministers of the Chatchai II government had some kind of behavior which had caused public dissatisfaction. If former prime minister General Chatchai Chunhawan had not overlooked the problems and not kept saying "no problem," the coup might not have happened. However, since the coup already took place and a new government has been formed, we would like to remind this government that it must be a government which will win public satisfaction and admiration for its capability and promptness as well as its sincerity to itself, the public office, and the people.

U.S. Talks Resume on Intellectual Property Rights

BK0803050391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 91 p 26

[By Phonphimphon Kanchanalak]

[Text] Thai and US officials yesterday resumed talks aimed at tackling what the US sees as one of the most important trade issues—intellectual property rights.

The discussions, in Los Angeles, would follow a loose and broad agenda covering copyright and patent protection issues.

The meeting also might discuss steps to be taken under the trade agreement between the US and the six nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The memorandum of understanding on the trade pact was signed in Washington in December last year.

The Thai delgation is led by Mr Kroekkrai Chiraphaet, chief trade negotiator of the Commerce Ministry. The delegation includes officials from the Office of Trademark Registration, the Police Department, Public Prosecurtor's Office, Department of Arts, and specialists in patent law.

The American team is led by Assistant US Trade Representative Peter Collins.

On the eve of the talks, US officials described the Los Angeles meeting as "an exchange of views" rather than a negotiation in any sense.

The Thais were expected to go through the list of steps and measures they had taken toward adequately and effectively protecting intellectual property rights in Thailand.

However, officials from both sides were aware the outcome of the meeting could and would have significant ramifications for the future of Thai-US trade.

The discussions take place against a backdrop of trade complaints and an on-going investigation into Thailand's policy and practices involving intellectual property rights violations.

The USTR accepted (on December 24, 1990) a petition filed by the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) under "regular" section 301 of US trade law against Thailand's alleged failure to enforce its existing copyright laws against blatant infringement of US copyrighted works, in particular US movies and recording.

The petition was filed by the IIPA on November 15, 1990.

An IIPA official told the BANGKOK POST in Washington that so far the IIPA has not heard of any progress made by the Thai Government toward strengthening the enforcement measures against pirates.

The IIPA strongly believes the problem can be corrected by the Thai Government showing a "political will" to enforce the existing copyright law.

The USTR is also in the process of determining whether or not to accept a similar petition filed by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PMA) on the ground of Thailand's failure to provide adequate and effective patent protection for pharmaceutical products. The legal deadline for such a determination falls on March 16.

US officials will meet representatives of the PMA right after the Los Angeles meeting to discuss the matter.

PMA senior vice president Dr Harvey E Bale, Jr said it was not likely the PMA would withdraw its petition unless all its concerns were satisfactorily resolved.

The issues were, among other things, longer terms of patent protectioin (20 years vs 15 years under the existing law), strict limits on compulsory licensing, coverage of pipe line products, and stronger protection of registration data.

The USTR also had been investigating Thailand's policies and practices involving the intellectual property violations. This investigation was self-initiated on May 25, 1989, under the so-called "special 301" intellectual property provisions of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988.

Thailand was put on the "priority watch list" together with seven other nations. The accelerated six-month investigation under special 301 provision (as opposed to one year in the case of industry-initiated investigation) was extended until April 30 of this year. Then the USTR would have to make an announcement on whether to remove Thailand from the priority watch list and watch list altogether, or to identify it as a "priority country" which would make Thailand a target for trade retaliation. The IIPA already had urged the USTR to target Thailand as a priority country.

Although neither Thai nor American officials would say that the outcome of the Los Angeles meeting was a matter of serious trade ramifications, everyone involved is well aware the clock is ticking toward an undertaking which could be mutually devastating.

Rice Exporters Urge Expansion Into Middle East

BK0803045391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 91 p 19

[Text] The Rice Exporters' Association [REA] is urging the Government to send trade missions to the Middle East to locate markets and counter the dominance of the American cereal.

REA manager Sombun Patichan said American exporters of rice and other goods were expected to gain healthy benefits from the US role in the Gulf war.

But he said there was still a chance for Thailand to capture a healthy market share and sell highgrade rice to that region.

Mr Sombun said there was strong demand for rice in some South American countries and the US was expected to give priority to supplying that market.

"Rice production in the US this year is expected to be below last year because of the crop reduction programme," he said. "This means US exports may not be able to dominate in the Middle East."

The association also called on the Commerce Ministry to play a key role in selling high-grade rice to these countries, saying many might face financial burden.

Mr Sombun said local rice production this year also was likely to fall and most rice exporters were afraid of committing themselves to large deals with foreign buyers.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Thailand has set guidelines for providing assistance to exporters who have sold rice to Iraq.

Governor Wichit Suphinit said the central bank would wait now that the Gulf conflict has ended and see how Iraq settles the 1,700 million baht it owes Thai rice exporters.

He said the bank would not reduce interest rates on its packing loans extended to the rice exporters, "but we will ask commercial banks to help shoulder the burden by cutting their interest rates on the loans."

Mr Sombun, meanwhile, said his association would submit a proposal to Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on asking for an amendment to certain articles of the Rice Trade Act of 1946, especially the article requiring traders to provide details of purchases and stocks as a way of avoiding shortages.

He said this article was impractical because Thailand currently could not face a shortage and the article was simply causing problems for exporters.

Kuwait To Import 16,000 for Reconstruction

BK0803031991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 91 p A4

[By Prakopphong Panaphon]

[Excerpt] Kuwait is planning to import at least 16,000 Thai workers to help reconstruct the emirate's infrastructure destroyed during the Iraqi occupation, the Thai Information Centre in Riyadh has reported.

The centre on Wednesday quoted an Arabic newspaper as saying that the Kuwaiti government wanted to hire the Thai workers and others from the Philippines to help restore the country following its liberation on Feb 28.

About 7,000 Thais worked in Kuwait before Iraq invaded the tiny rich emirate on Aug 2, according to the information centre.

But Labour Department Director General Prasong Rananan said the Kuwaiti government had not yet asked the Thai government to send workers to the emirate.

Prasong said the department had nearly 20,999 workers ready to go once Kuwait gave the green light.

Of the 20,000 workers, Prasong said 9,000 were workers who had returned from the Middle East before and after the Persian Gulf War broke out in the middle of January.

He said the 20,000 workers had registered with the department and could be contacted immediately if work was available for them in the Middle East.

Prasong advised people who want to work in the Middle East to contact the department directly to avoid being cheated by unscrupulous job-placement agencies.

About 150,000 Thais are presently working in the Middle East and sending an annual Bt [Baht] 20-30 billion back to the country, Prasong's deputy, Amphon Chuannanon, said yesterday. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

'Serious Contradictions' in U.S. Postwar Plans

BK0803101691 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 8—The national daily NHAN DAN today says that the ambition of the United States in the Persian Gulf is big but its postwar plan faces serious contradictions.

The paper points out that first, this is a conflict between the Arab peoples and the United States. For many years now, the Arab peoples have strongly condemned the United States for fostering and backing the Israeli expansionists' aggression against Arab countries, particularly the Palestinians. This contradiction is becoming even more acute now that the United States is trying to place Iraq and other Arab states under its control after the Gulf war.

Second, NHAN DAN says, there is the conflict of interests in the Gulf between the United States and other Western countries. The latter obviously do not want to see the United States monopolize that region.

Third, the U.S. postwar plan is being deployed at a time when the U.S. economy continues to slump into a prolonged crisis characterized by increasing budget deficit and other economic ills which are no small hindrances to Washington's postwar plan.

NHAN DAN goes on: "All people of conscience in the world are demanding a fair and constructive postwar plan aimed at bringing a durable peace and stability to the Persian Gulf and the whole Middle East. All foreign armed forces and war means must be quickly and completely pulled out of the Persian Gulf. The remaining problems in the region must be resolved by the people in the region themselves in the spirit of reconciliation and through peaceful negotiations without foreign interference.

"The developed countries should tender disinterested assistance to all countries victimized by the Gulf war on the principle of mutual benefits. It is imperative to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East to solve all the burning questions in the region, including the Palestinian question."

Foreign Ministry Holds Press Briefing

BK0703153291 Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7 - 'The Vietnamese people are ready to take part in the reconstruction of the Gulf region according to its capacity and in agreement with concerned countries,' said Mrs. Ho The Lan, head of the Press and Information Department and spokeswoman of the Foreign Ministry, at a regular press briefing here this afternoon.

Asked how Vietnam greets the end of the Gulf war, Mrs. Lan said: 'Together with the rest of the world, the Vietnamese people rejoice at the cessation of the Gulf war. Vietnam holds that the concerned countries and the United Nations have the responsibility to early solve the post-war issues, including the Middle East issue, in order to bring a durable peace and stability to this region on the basis of fully respecting the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations in the region and on the principle that this region's destiny must be decided by its own people.

'The Vietnamese people hope that the peoples of Iraq, Kuwait and other countries could quickly overcome the heavy consequences of war.'

Asked whether Vietnam has contacted the new leadership of Thailand in preparation for the ministerial meeting and the meeting of the prime ministers of the two countries as scheduled before the coup d'etat in Thailand, Mrs. Lan said: 'Vietnam and Thailand will continue their normal relations through their ambassadors [words indistinct].

'As for the visit of Chairman Do Muoi to Thailand, the two countries will discuss it at an appropriate time.

'Our invitation to the Thai foreign minister to visit Vietnam is still valid.'

Asked about U.S. President Bush's March 1 statement that the United States has definitively got rid of the 'Vietnam syndrome' after the Gulf war, she said: 'Our view is that it is still too early to completely evaluate the impact of the Gulf war. Let the American people themselves answer questions pertaining to their emotions. As for Vietnam, we always look forward to the normalization of the relations between Vietnam and the United States because we think it is beneficial to both sides and is an effective medicine to heal the mental wounds caused by the U.S. war in Vietnam.'

Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman on Gulf, Cambodia

BK0703111691 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] At the regular press conference in Hanoi on Thursday [7 March], a spokeswoman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, Mrs. Ho The Lan, said that the countries concerned and the UN should quickly settle postwar problems in the Gulf region, including the settlement of the Middle East issue, to bring about a lasting peace and stability to this region on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all nations in the region.

She said that all issues of this region must be decided by the people in the region themselves. She also expressed the wish that the peoples of Iraq, Kuwait, and other countries quickly overcome the heavy war aftermaths. She emphasized Vietnam's readiness to take part in the reconstruction of this region according to its capacity with the agreement of all concerned countries.

On the possibility of the settlement of the Cambodian issue, Mrs. Ho The Lan said there could be many possibilities to reach a just, reasonable political solution to the Cambodian issue.

After mentioning the existing problems to be solved, she said that the urgent problem is to carry out immediately a ceasefire and stop foreign military aid to all Cambodian factions.

Conflict in USSR Over Treaty of Union Viewed

BK0703080191 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Complicated developments in the Soviet Union continue to run deep around the referendum of the future of USSR scheduled for March 17. Here is our radio comment on this matter:

So far, of the 15 Soviet republics, seven have resolved to take part in the referendum of the future of the United USSR. They include Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Moldavia and worse situation was reported in Latvia and Lithuania. In Latvia an awkward and uncompromising political struggle is underway between opposition parties aimed at seizing power.

In a recent interview with the Soviet newspaper (Glasnost), Mr. Rubiks, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party, said a civil war in Latvia could be avoided by applying the Soviet presidential control as the opposing sides in Latvia are powerful and it is hard to have them reconcile. In Lithuania, in the early hours of March 4, a group of people conducted bomb attack on capital Vilnius, destroying the offices of the Soviet and October military committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party and six other buildings. According to Lieutenant Colonel Deloze, commander of Vilnius military control, that bomb explosion was a warning against the Lithuanian Communists and citizens who want to participate in the March 17 referendum. He said: Obviously, the (?terrorists) in Lithuania are attempting to undermine the referendum in this republic and armed troops of the [words indistinct] from other localities are converging on capital Vilnius.

Speaking at the Minsk tractor manufacturer during his visit to Belorussia in mid-February, President Gorbachev strongly opposed the abandon of the policy of restructuring. He also said that the major target at present is to quickly seize power in market mechanism and sign a new treaty of the union. He condemned political forces' attempt to weaken and break the Soviet

Union. He warned that the political struggle might pull the Soviet Union from reform to confrontation and civil war.

President Gorbachev criticized the so-called democracy supporters who have chosen anti-communism, who belong to the left wing but in fact represent opposition rightist faction. The Soviet leader called on the oppositions to abandon the attempt to seize power by force in order to avoid a civil war.

Meanwhile, at a session in Moscow on February 25, the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution regarding as illegal some republics' decisions not to take part in the March 17 referendum. The USSR Supreme Soviet delegated the Soviets in the republics that had not established referendum committee to set up divisions and committee on referendum. It also empowered the same right to public and social organizations at enterprises, public offices, and military units. As a result, every Soviet citizen can take part in the referendum in spite of different views of some republics as mentioned above.

One Million Face 'Food Supply Difficulties'

BK0803051091 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] At present nearly 1 million people in Nghe Tinh Province, including 230,000 who are covered by social assistance policies, are facing food supply difficulties during the pre-harvest lean period. Worth noting is that up to 350,000 people are reportedly in fairly dire straits. Most of these people live in areas regularly hit by natural calamities and crop failures.

According to the provincial People's Committee, this state of affairs was caused by the fact that in 1990 the people had little grain reserves and that, while they were striving to overcome the aftermath of the previous year's natural calamities, their crops in 55 coastal villages were destroyed by Typhoons No. 5 and 6, which broke dams and brought high tides, and their summer-fall rice crop in the low-lying areas of 70 other villages was damaged by waterlogging. On top of that, drought also caused crop failures in 40 mountain villages. All this resulted in a loss of about 50,000 metric tons of grain.

Because of increases in the local population, the annual per capita grain distribution was a mere 210 kg, down from the 1989 figures. Meanwhile, because of market fluctuations in many industrial, small industrial, and handicraft production establishments, workers were underemployed and had low income. For their part, cadres, workers, and employees of the administrative and nonproductive sectors, as well as members of the Armed Forces, also faced difficulties because of their low real wages; for this reason, they could not help out their families in the rural areas as they did in previous years.

Nghe Tinh has adopted a policy of sending 1,000 metric tons of rice to key areas for free distribution and more than 2,500 tons for sale. However, people have very limited purchasing power. Various districts have actively motivated people to engage in winter crop production. To date, the transplanting of 143,000 hectares of fifth-month spring rice has been completed.

Localities Urged To Quell Outbreak of Insects

BK0803080891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers recently sent a message to various localities, ministries, and sectors concerned stressing the need to adopt necessary measures to satisfactorily quell the outbreak of brown planthoppers on winter-spring rice in the Mekong river delta provinces, which could adversely affect the yield and output of this rice and, later on, the summer-fall rice and 10th-month rice.

To satisfactorily safeguard production, the chairman of the Council of Ministers requests that:

1. Together with various provinces, districts, and colleges, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry seek a thorough understanding of the causes of the outbreak of insects and diseases in order to advance the most effective countermeasures.

2. All administrative echelons encourage peasants to actively destroy brown planthoppers with both insecticide and traditional methods, while isolating the infested area to prevent these insects from spreading to other areas.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Heavy Industry sufficiently and promptly provide the localities affected by planthoppers with effective insecticide.

4. In order to report to the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers on the development of brown planthoppers and the use of countermeasures, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry is requested to discuss with the State Science and Technology Commission the provision of guidance and the turnover of specific projects to the Vegetation Protection Institute, the Mekong River Delta Rice Institute, and the Can Tho Agricultural College for systematically conducting research on various rice varieties and their origin, as well as on various kinds of fertilizer that have been applied to rice. This is necessary in determining the causes of the outbreak of insects and diseases and suggesting countermeasures for all types or each type of insects.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and the administrtation at all levels are requested to concentrate on effectively directing the eradication of brown planthoppers for the protection of rice in this winter-spring crop season in the south.

Intellectuals Contribute Views on Party Documents

BK0803090091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] A seminar was held recently at the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Cultural and Labor Palace by the Vietnam Arts and Letters Federation and the Hanoi Science and Technology Association to contribute views to the draft political report to be presented at the Seventh Party Congress.

Attending the seminar were many intellectuals, academics, professors, and holders of doctorates and master's degrees of many generations from different professional sectors—from literature and art to natural and social sciences, industry, management, and science and technology—who are members of 27 professional and 2 business associations.

The seminar, which was jointly chaired by Writer To Hoai and Professor Dr. Nguyen Long An, heard nearly 20 statements [words indistinct] hailing the announcement of the Seventh Party Congress' documents as a move to prove that the party truly attaches importance to the people's opinions and that revolution is the people's undertaking.

Dealing with various parts in the party's draft political report, the participants noted in general that the draft report, which has been carefully prepared, presents an accurate assessment of the situation in the country and points out the achievements that have been recorded and the basic shortcomings that still exist after four years of renovation. However, many of them were of the view that the draft political report still fails to analyze in detail the causes of shortcomings and weaknesses in leadership and macro- and micro-economic management.

Expressing their views, some participants pointed to difficulties in daily life due to social injustice, as well as to newly-emerging acts of negativism in ideological and economic activities.

Seminar on National Administration Held in Hanoi

BK0703111591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] With the consent of the chairman of the Council of Ministers and assisted by the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, the National Administration Association and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly held a seminar on national administrative management in Hanoi from 4 to 6 March.

Attending the seminar under the chairmanship of Professor Doan Trong Chuyen, rector of the National Administration School, were Comrade Nguyen Dy Nien, deputy foreign minister, and Mr. David Smith, Hanoi-based UNDP representative.

On the Vietnamese side, there were representatives and specialists from many organs such as the Government Organization and Cadre Committee; the Party Central Committee International Department; the Office of the National Assembly; the Office of the Council of Ministers; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare; the Ministry of Finance; the State Inspection Commission; the Central Institute of Economic Management; the Institute of Philosophy; the Institute of State and Law subordinate to the Science and Technology Commission; the Lawyers' Association; and the Ho Chi Minh City Industrial and Commercial Bank.

The group of international specialists included Prof. Stephen Bruce, Northern Territorial College of Australia; Dr. Sneid Yu, vice president of a consultant company in Switzerland; and Dr. Paul Matt, deputy director of Holland's Institute of International Relations.

Also present were ambassadors or charge d'affaires from the embassies of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, India, Japan, Sweden, Britain, and the Soviet Union in Hanoi.

Comrade Nguyen Khanh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited and addressed the seminar.

During the 3 days of working, many Vietnamese and international delegates delivered their speeches commenting on three major subjects: the reform of national administrative management, the one-ministry model in the government machinery, and the issue concerning civil servants.

This was the first seminar on national administrative management ever held in Vietnam with international participation. The seminar raised many issues with theoretical and practical characteristics concerning the three above-mentioned aspects. It also presented some good ideas for further study.

The seminar concluded with fine success.

Nguyen Thanh Binh Visits 3 Southern Provinces

BK0703121391 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[Report on Visit by Communist Party of Vietnam Politburo Member Nguyen Thanh Binh to Long An, Dong Thap, and An Giang Provinces]

[Summary] "Over the past 12 days, Party Central Committee Political Bureau Member Nguyen Thanh Binh paid working visits to Long An, Dong Thap, and An Giang Provinces to control the party development tasks in the provinces. Accompanying him was Comrade Huynh Tho, Deputy Head of the Party Central Committee Department of Organization."

After visiting 10 districts and towns and hearing reports by leaders of the visited localities, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh checked "the tasks of economic leadership, party consolidation and caring for the people's livelihood, and the contents of upcoming party congresses at various levels."

In general, over the past four years, Long An, Dong Thap, and An Giang Provinces have had outstanding results in agricultural production and economic development. "The livelihood of peasants in many localities has improved markedly due mainly to the development of agricultural production. As a result, the political situation has stabilized, national defense has consolidated, and security and order has been assured."

However, by and large, the economy in the three provinces is still unbalanced because of failure to properly deal with negative manifestations such as "embezzlement of credit funds and tontines, and swindle and misappropriation of each other's funds which have caused serious consequences in many respects."

Along with effort to overcome the above consequences, "the party organizations of Long An, Dong Thap, and An Giang Provinces are striving to consolidate the party, enhance the leadership and militancy of basic party organizations, and strengthen the blood-sealed relationship between the party and the people."

On behalf of the party Central Committee Secretariat, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh warmly commended the three provinces for their efforts to increase agricultural production, pay taxes, and adhere to socialist lines in the process of renovation.

He repeatedly reminded the provinces of the need to draw promptly upon experiences in dealing with negativism in financial management and bank operations, and to clearly determine the responsibility of collectives and individuals for the tasks of finance, banking, credit, distribution and circulation.

"Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh made specific suggestions concerning the scope of preparations for the congress of party organizations at all levels, particularly the soliciting of contributions to draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress and the participation in electing really qualified cadres in terms of intelligence, ability, and political and ethical qualities to the party committees so that they have competence to assume their duties in the new stage."

On the occasion of lunar new year, he wished that the party organizations and people of the three provinces would steadily overcome all difficulties and ordeals to continually accomplish new achievements in renovation.

Ha Nam Ninh Veteran Association Reviews Tasks

BK0703121791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The War Veteran Association of Ha Nam City, Ha Nam Ninh Province held its first congress recently to review tasks since its establishment and to elect a new executive committee to formulate program of actions for the next three years 1991-93.

On this occasion, the congress reviewed production and other activities of the city during the past period. It also discussed and contributed ideas to the report on the party draft political platform and the party socioeconomic development strategies.

Meanwhile, the association has, together with echelons of the local party organizations and administration, discussed and formulated measures to improve conditions in the region, develop the economy, educate the youth, and provide assistance to the elderly.

The activities of the association are carried out under the leadership and supervision of the Ha Nam City party organization and the administration as well as in close association with the internal affairs bloc, including military and police units.

Meeting Held on Bilateral Ties With Thailand

BK0803034991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 91 p A11

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] A lack of regular consultation and an incomplete understanding of both countries history have impeded closer relations between Thailand and Vietnam.

That was the conclusion reached by a grup of Thai and Vietnamese scholars attending the Second Thailand-Vietnam Roundtable Meeting in Hanoi on Feb 20-23.

The meeting, which brought together 10 Thai academics from various universities, Thai diplomats and two dozen Vietnamese experts on Thailand and Southeast Asia, decided that the only way to promote mutual understanding was concrete measures to bring the countries together in the economic, cultural and social fields.

The meeting broached new ideas ranging from a joint effort to publish a Thai-Vietnamese dictionary and sports and film exchanges to joint archeological efforts and religious research.

The roundtable is considered the biggest meeting ever held in Hanoi on Thai-Vietnamese ties. The first meeting was held in Bangkok in November 1989, when three Vietnamese scholars joined a group of Thai academics from Chulalongkon and Thammasat universities to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral ties. At the first meeting, the two sides decided to discuss only economic and cultural cooperation and left aside political issues.

When Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila made his first official visit to Hanoi in January 1989, he proposed that Thai and Vietnamese academics should meet regularly to exchange views to strengthen bilateral ties. The plan has now become institutionalized as it was in line with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's policy direction of turning the Indochinese battlefield into a marketplace.

The discussion was described as "frank and fruitful" by Phaen Wannameth, director of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of International Studies, who headed the Thai delegation. "Both sides have shown goodwill as to what appropriate and tangible steps should be taken to cement Thai-Vietnamese relations," he said.

Phaen, a former foreign affairs permanent secretary, said the Vietnamese academics were very "receptive" to Thai opinions on both economic and cultural matters. "They want to learn from the Thai experience," he said.

Vietnam's enthusiasm and the importance it attached to the roundtable were evident through the unexpected participation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. Prof Dang Xuan Ky, the newly-appointed chairman of the Vietnamese National Social Science Centre also attended.

In his opening address, Thach said that good Thai-Vietnamese relations in the future would be crucial for peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Former adversaries in various parts of the world, especially in Europe and among the superpowers, have now switched from the arms race to closer cooperation, Thach observed.

"Why can't Thailand and Vietnam cooperate?" he wondered.

Many answers to the question were given as scholars from both countries shared their views on the ups and downs of Thai-Vietnamese ties.

Phaen pointed out that the lack of regular communication between the two governments and nations has caused numerous misunderstandings in the past. "We need to talk to better understand each other and to create goodwill. We cannot be indifferent to each other," he said.

If there are more people-to-people contacts as well as government cooperation, Phaen believes, Thai-Vietnamese ties will be promoted further, with confidence building on both sides.

Other Thai participants attributed the failure to forge better ties to the lack of a multi-faceted approach on the Thai side as well as inadequate dissemination of information on Vietnam.

Komkrit Worakhamin, a Foreign Ministry official, suggested in his paper a broader approach together with a systematic plan to action as ways to strengthen cultural exchange between Thailand and Vietnam.

Komgrit, the ministry's expert on Vietnam, said Thailand has always been more interested in promoting cultural exchanges with the Western countries rather than with its friends in Asia.

Khian Thirawit, director of Chulalongkon University's Institute of Asian Studies, said that the low-level of technological development, the shortage of qualified experts and political scientists, and the lack of direct communication between concerned authorities were preventing further dissemination of information between the two countries.

Khien said that only recently has the Thai media shown keen interest in reporting about developments in Vietnam, which used to be covered only in the Western press. Thai academics have conducted research in Vietnam and are writing their reports based on their own observations.

From the Vietnamese perspective, historical factors have been predominant in shaping the current Thai-Vietnamese relationship.

Duong Trung Quoc, a Vietnamese historian, correctly pointed out that strong prejudices still exist in Thai-Vietnamese relations due to a long and distorted history of hostility and incomplete understanding of each country's unique heritage.

Quoc said there was an urgency for the new generation to learn of the development of the two countries. He suggested that there be a reciprocal study programme on each country's history commensurate with other aspects of bilateral cooperation.

In the economic field, participants from both countries called for the establishment of a joint commission to boost cooperation—a topic which has been discussed by both governments in the past.

Somchai Phakhaphatwiwat of Thammasat University called for cooperation in financing and investment. The economic reconstruction of Vietnam and establishment of various export processing zones in both the northern and southern parts of Vietnam could provide a good stepping stone for Thailand to establish and increase its economic presence with cooperation beginning on small- and medium-sized projects, he said.

Vu Dang Dzung, from the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's Southeast Asian Department, agreed that both countries should not try to launch large-scale joint projects, but should first start with small projects.

The roundtable also focused on a unique area of bilateral cooperation—archaeological projects.

Surin Phukhachon, an archaeologist from Silapakon University, said there were close connections between prehistoric Thailand and Vietnam. "It is about time we talked about ancient Thai-Vietnamese ties in order to understand the present," said Surin, who had done research in Vietnam and China on the origin of Thai culture.

He recommended a joint archaeological research team to study linkage between the two cultures and their contacts in prehistoric times.

A well-known Vietnamese archaeologist, Ha Van Tan, said he believed there were cultural exchanges between Thailand's northeastern region and Vietnam's Red River basin. He pointed out that the pottery and bronze tools in Non Nok Thai and Ban Chiang had similar features to artifacts of pre-Dong Song culture in Vietnam.

Another area of cooperation is the field of literature which so far has received very little attention from both countries. Phonphen Hantrakun of Silapakon University called for translations of literature from both countries to promote better understanding between the cultures.

DPRK To Help SRV Build Power Plant

BK0703154891 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7 - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will help Vietnam build a hydroelectric power plant with a capacity of 66,000 KW with its interest-free, long-term loan.

This is stated in a protocol on economic and trade cooperation between Vietnam and the DPRK for 1991-1995 signed in Pyongyang by Le Xuan Chinh, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission, during his DPRK visit from [words indistinct] to March 5.

While in the DPRK, Le Xuan Chinh and his party were received by Cho Yong Kim, alternate Politburo member of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee and vice premier of the Administration Council.

Saigon-Leningrad Optical Enterprise Inaugurated

BK0803071391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] On 1 March, the Saigon-Leningrad Joint Optical Enterprise held an inauguration ceremony and officially began operation. This is the first joint venture between the public health sectors of Vietnam and the Soviet Union and also one of the first joint enterprises between Ho Chi Minh city and its sister city of Leningrad.

According to its estimate, the enterprise is capable of turning out 1.2 million products each year with a total value of 2.1 billion Vietnamese dong. Apart from producing an eye lens, the enterprise also furnishes technical parameters on opthalmology for the treatment of eye diseases at various hospitals.

German Insurance Company Envoy To Help Vietnam

BK0703092691 Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7—E. Oberachenp, a specialist of the Munich Re Insurance Company in Germany, has come to Vietnam to help improve the proficiency of some 40 officers of the Vietnam Insurance Company (BAOVIET) and other public offices having to deal with insurance services.

BAOVIET has sought professional assistance from the German Munich Re Insurance Company in order to formulate and carry out a plan of insuring construction and installation projects in Vietnam in service of foreign investors and contractors as well as joint ventures with foreign partners. In May last year, the German company sent many experts here to help BAOVIET train a staff specializing in fire insurance proficiency. Mr. Oberachenp arrived here on Monday and will stay six days.

Australia

Philippines To Be Questioned on Cambodian Refugees

BK0703074691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Federal Government will question Manila about reports that the Cambodian refugees who arrived in Darwin on Monday [4 March] first stopped in the Philippines. The Department of Foreign Affairs says the 33 Indochinese may have sought first asylum in the Philippines which in the past has processed Vietnamese refugees.

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department, Mr. Paul Gregsmith says there may have been a change in policy by the Philippines which now prevents the country from providing first asylum.

Fiji

President Urges Chiefs To Form New Party

BK0703072691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0545 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Suva, March 7 (AFP)—Fiji's President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau gave his endorsement Thursday to moves by the interim government to form a new All-Fijian political party to be headed by its traditional chiefs.

In a speech opening a two-day conference of the Great Council of Chiefs, Ratu Penaia defended the role of the ceremonial chiefs in national politics, saying they were born to serve "and party politics is yet another vehicle to serve the people".

His address followed efforts Wednesday by two opposition parties to block the formation of the new party through a writ served in Suva high court.

The writ seeks an order to prevent the government using state funds to launch the new party.

The court has yet to hand down any decision on the application.

The opposition fears the move will further strengthen the power of the traditional chiefs, already given significant new powers under the 1990 constitution, which they criticise for being racially-biased.

Critics and Fijian political analysts here have also said involvement in the political process will belittle the chief's traditional hierarchy, which has stood the test of several hundred years.

Leading Fijian Anaylst Ropate Qalo has said the new party will split the Fijian vote and could result in the demise of the chiefly system, especially if it lost the elections.

But Ratu Penaia urged the 70 high-ranking chiefs, meeting at the army's Queen Elizabeth Barracks, to disregard the critics.

"Remain silent and carry on with the work of serving the people," he told them.

He warned, however, that there could be trying times ahead as Fiji braces itself for its first general elections since the 1987 military takeover.

Fiji's new constitution, promulgated in July last year, allocates 32 of 37 Fijian seats to be contested in provincial areas, where the chief's influence is the strongest.

Indians are allowed 27 seats and Polynesian Rotumans one, while other minority races have five in the 70-seat parliament.

Ratu Penaia said Fiji was now at the cross-roads of "achieving better things as a nation."

Council chairman and Fijian Affairs Minister Lieutenant Colonel Vatiliai Navunisaravi denied newspaper reports here that the meeting was expected to ask for a postponent of the elections and for Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who was absent from the meeting, to continue in office.

New Zealand

United Nations Security Council Seat Sought

BK0703055291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Wellington, March 7 (AFP)—New Zealand will seek a seat on the United Nations Security Council [UNSC], Foreign Minister Don Mckinnon said in a statement Thursday.

New Zealand will seek the seat as member of the "Western European and others group" which has two seats on the council, which will come vacant at the end of 1992.

"The Gulf war has shown how important it is for small states, like New Zealand, to have a strong collective security arrangement in place," Mr. Mckinnon said. "That's what the security council offers."

New Zealand served on the council in 1954-55 and in 1966.

"Our candidacy reflects New Zealand's continued commitment to the UN, to collective security, and to ensuring that the voice of small nations can be heard loud and clear."

Foreign Minister Urges APEC Over Alternatives

BK0703094291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Jakarta, March 7 (AFP)—New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon Thursday said the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) should be given a chance to prove itself first before the region considers other alternatives.

"We believe for the current time that we would see more use in the APEC as a vehicle for activities in the region until it can be found to be innappropriate," Mr. McKinnon said after meeting Indonesian President Suharto.

Mr. McKinnon was commenting on the East Asian Economic Group (EAEG) concept, proposed by Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad in December following the breakdown in the Uruguay-round of multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

He said Wellington was looking into it but for the moment "We see that APEC has been very positive to the region."

APEC gathers the six members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—with Japan, the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Korea.

Malaysia said the proposed EAEG, which would include ASEAN with countries such as Vietnam, Burma, Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan, was intended to counter the emergence of single markets in Western Europe and North America.

Mr. McKinnon, who arrived Tuesday, was scheduled to hold talks with his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas later Thursday. He would return to New Zealand Friday.

He said on arrival he planned to seek information on the EAEG during his visit here.

In Kuala Lumpur Wednesday BERNAMA NEWS AGENCY quoted New Zealand Minister of Trade Negotiations Philip Burdon as saying Wellington wanted to be a member of the EAEG.

Although New Zealand was not part of the East Asian region, it was geographically a part of Asia and expected in the long term to be integrated in the region's economic development by being a member of the EAEG, he said.

Mr. Burdon said New Zealand fully appreciated the EAEG's concept which subscribed to the principles of free trade in the international marketplace and that the initiative clearly complemented the GATT, prompting New Zealand to participate in any efforts to enhance regional economic cooperation.

Papua New Guinea

BRA Leader Reiterates Independent Stand

BK0803071291 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The leader of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA], Mr. Samuel Kauona, has reiterated that Bougainville is an independent state. In an interview on Bougainville, Mr. Kauona told Papua New Guinea's Broadcasting Commission that the island's government is firmly established.

He also welcomed dialogue on the question of the island's independence from Papua New Guinea but he did not indicate that he or rebel leader Mr. Francis Ona would be involved in future talks as the Papua New Guinea Government has insisted.

Rebels Allow Stranded Foreigners To Leave

BK0703132091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1200 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Port Moresby, March 7 (AFP)—A group of 28 people stranded on Bougainville for a year has been allowed to leave the island by its secessionist rebels, government sources said Thursday.

The 28, mostly foreigners and including two pregnant women, were the first large group permitted to leave the island since the Papua New Guinea government lifted its blockade after failing to suppress the rebellion.

They left aboard the motor vessel Sankamap, which arrived Thursday in Rabaul, New Guinea, following a trip to Bougainville to deliver medicines donated by Australia and collect a container of cocoa.

An Australian Red Cross doctor who had visited Bougainville to assess health conditions left at the same time.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu welcomed the release of the group as a sign of goodwill by the rebels.

"All of these services that are going in are helping to restore some measure of trust because that is one thing that is still lacking," Mr. Namaliu told a news conference.

He said it was important for communication to be developed.

"It may take time, but gradually at least with the restoration of services that is happening."

But Mr. Namaliu said he had yet to receive a response from the rebels to his call for talks to review their January 23 Honiara Peace Declaration.

In the meantime, Foreign Affairs Minister Sir Michael Somare restated his view that mining giant CRA Ltd. will have to withdraw from Bougainville.

Sir Michael believes the withdrawal of CRA from the copper rich island could hold the key to the long-term politicial settlement of the on-going secessionist crisis.

He has been trying to find a buyer for CRA's 53.6 per cent stake in Bougainville Copper Ltd. (BCL), operator of the giant Panguna Copper mine.

CRA has said it would be willing to consider selling if such a move proved the catalyst to a political solution and if the price was right.

Death Penalty Urged as Law, Order Decline

BK0803005091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1731 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Port Moresby, March 7 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said Thursday that he will push for the death penalty among proposed tough new measures to combat deteriorating law and order problems.

He told a news conference there was increasing pressure for tougher penalties to deal with a situation which another senior Cabinet minister described as "really getting out of hand."

Mr. Namaliu said he favoured the death penalty "under certain circumstances" for crimes such as willful murder.

Legislation to introduce the death penalty was suggested last year but never debated by parliament.

Mr. Namaliu said he would push ahead with the legislation on May 7 regardless of international opinion.

He said a wide range of proposals had been presented to his government following a recent crime summit in Port Moresby and a meeting Wednesday with premiers of the notorious highland provinces.

His announcement followed a claim by mining and petroleum industries this week that the government is neglecting law and order while at the same time "begging" for donations to attract more investors during the 1992 world exposition in Spain.

Rampaging gangs of "raskals"—thugs—have led what has been perceived to be a breakdown of law and order which is of increasing concern both to business and citizens.

A number of major mining projects have been affected by tribal fights in the highlands, and highways have become notorious for gangs setting up armed road blocks.

Mr. Namaliu, while denying the accusation of neglect, said the government was equally concerned about the situation and doing everything possible to contain it.

"When the mining industry sees the total package of measures we will announce, they will give it the support it deserves," he said.

"Before we adopt these measures, we have to determine whether the funds to implement them are available and if they are not available how they can be obtained."

The government says almost a quarter of the nation's annual budget is already being spent on law enforcement.

Red Cross Official on Conditions in Bougainville

BK0703071691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] In Papua New Guinea, the representative of the International Red Cross says there is still a critical shortage of medical supplies on the secessionist-held island of Bougainville. An Australian doctor, Neville Henry, has spent almost two weeks assessing priorities for an international relief operation for Bougainville.

Dr. Henry says doctors on Bougainville had told him that there had been a dramatic increase in malaria, yaws, tropical ulcers, and diarrhea. Dr. Henry said he could not comment on claims by Dr. Lupi of Anaworth Clinic that 700 people had died from malaria related complaints since Papua New Guinea imposed a blockade on the island last year, and there had been 1,700 preventable deaths in the past year.

Dr. Henry said there was still an urgent need for clothing in rural areas of the island, and priority must be given to restoring electricity supplies and providing fuel for vehicles.

He said he would recommend that the International Red Cross concentrate on restarting an immunization program for children. Dr. Henry said another priority would be to provide transport to distribute medical drugs and to establish a means of communications between rural health centers.

Tonga

Passport Sales Provoke Protest to Tongan King

BK0803103991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Auckland, New Zealand, March 8 (AFP)—About 2,000 people, led by Catholic and Methodist church leaders, marched on Tonga's royal palace Friday to protest the government's handling of a growing crisis over the sale of passports and citizenships to foreigners.

It was the first time since 1983, when striking nurses protested over pay, that Tongans have marched on the palace.

Tonga's 100,000 people have had a reputation for loyalty and devotion to the royal family but this appears to have been shaken by the sale of hundreds of citizenships to Asians, including the Marcos family of the Philippines.

Among the leaders of the protest was the Amanaki Havea, president of the Free Wesleyan Church, Tonga's biggest church which is headed by King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV.

Commoner members of the royal and noble dominated legislative assembly, 'Akilisi Pohiva, Teisina Fuko and Viliami Fukofuka, attempted to present the king with two petitions but while he was in the palace he refused to receive them.

Mr. Pohiva sparked the crisis two years ago by beginning court proceedings against the government over the passport sales.

Unexpectedly last month Police and Immigration Minister 'Akau'ola announced that 426 of the naturalization and passport sales were illegal because the law had not been complied with.

A special session of the assembly was convoked and the constitution was amended and the passports were retrospectively legalised.

Mr. Fukofuka said Friday the petitions to the king were still being signed but one with more than 2,000 signatures had been handed to a palace secretary calling for 'Akau'ola's resignation.

Another with 3,000 signatures called on the king to reverse his signing of the assembly bills amending the constitition and legalising the passports.

Mr. Fukofuka said that until this week most people had not realized the scale of passport sales.

"We have been telling people that the Marcos family are now Tongans and when we say that there is a gasp of disbelief from people," he said.

Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos fled his country in 1986 following a popular revolt against him and died in exile in Hawaii.

In an interview by telephone with AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE the head of the Catholic church, Bishop Patelisio Finau, said extra police had been present but it had been peaceful, dominated by hymn singing.

Bishop Finau said he believed the protests would remain peaceful, but admitted many people on the March had become very outspoken about the king in particular.

"This is something that has never happened before. It shows the growing gap between government and the people," he said. "I do really hope that (the government) will respond positively. This is the first significant march ever in Tonga."

It would send a strong message to the villages and this was especially important now as the government had ordered the state-run broadcasting system not to cover the parliamentary debates over the passport sales, he said.

"People are much more aware and know they can do something to help themselves now." The bishop has become increasingly critical of the Tongan political system.

He defended his and Mr. Havea's role in a political event. "This is something very spiritual, it involves dignity, and human rights ... The church has to be relevant to the lives of people here.

"The church has to be on the side of the poor and the people are weak and powerless in Tonga, they have no voice."

INDPENDENT TIMES OF TONGA editor Kalafi Moala said Catholic nuns played a dominant part in the march, which he said was "very peaceful and well organised."

He estimated 1,500 people began the march with 2,000 at the palace during the presentation of the petitions.

Marcos Family, Others Reported To Buy Passports

BK0703133991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0852 GMT 7 Mar 91

[By Mike Field]

[Text] Auckland, New Zealand, March 7 (AFP)—Five months after fleeing into exile the deposed Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos, daughter Aimee and son Ferdinand, became naturalized citizens of the South Pacific kingdom of Tonga.

Along with Libyans, Palestinians, South Africans and Chinese, they took advantage of a controversial passport sales scheme later pronounced illegal, an issue of the Tonga government GAZETTE revealed.

Legal sources in Tonga believe passports were issued to other Filipinos, including the late former President Ferdinand Marcos.

THE TIMES OF TONGA, quoting another list, reported Tuesday that Mr. Marcos had been made a citizen.

The official GAZETTE, made available only to members of Tonga's legislative assembly, reveals the names and nationalities of 426 people who purchased Tongan citizenship and passports between August 1985 and July 1989.

A copy of the GAZETTE, obtained here by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, was produced at an emergency session of the assembly last month after the government conceded the sales of the passports violated the constitution.

At the session the constitution was amended and the passports retrospectively recognised.

The government of Tonga has yet to account for the proceeds of the passport sales.

According to the GAZETTE the Marcos's received their Tongan citizenship and passports on July 8, 1986. They had fled Manila in February 1986 after a popular uprising and were in exile in Hawaii at the time.

The recipiant of passport 041566 is named as Ferdinand Martin Marcos, born September 13, 1957 and described as a single businessman. He is the deposed president's son.

The next passport on the list, 041568, is issued to Mrs. Imelda Marcos. No date or country of birth given. She is described as a housewife.

Passport 041573 was issued to Aimee Marcos, born February 5, 1978 in the United States and described as a single student.

Five passport numbers between the younger Mr. Marcos's and Miss Marcos's numbers are missing from the list.

A member of the assembly who had challenged the government over the sale of passports, 'Akilise Pohiva, said Wednesday he had asked for an explanation for 47 missing passport numbers in the total list of 426.

He said he had been told by Justice Minister Tevita Tupou that it was not appropriate to say publicly what had happened.

THE TIMES OF TONGA said Tonga's constitition stipulated that citizenship could be granted only to people of "good behaviour" yet Mrs. Marcos "was a criminal ... who robbed her country of so many millions."

Under Tongan law Mrs. Marcos, as a citizen, is entitled to an allotment of three hectates (7.5 acres) of land. To get around this the government has been requiring those who bought passports to rent a plot of 148.5 square metres (1650 square feet) of land on several uninhabited volcanic and waterless islands to the north of Tonga.

Another Filipino is listed as Sam L. Wong, a married businessman. Last September the Tongan Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a directive to embassies which said that a "Dr. Sam Ling Wong" was purporting to represent the government of Tonga in Manila as consul general when, in fact, he enjoyed no such support.

The head of the Catholic Church in Tonga, Bishop Patelisio Finau, claimed in this month's issue of the church publication TAUMU'A LELEI that he understood the Tongan passports had been sold for 35,000 US dollars each.

He called for an accounting of the proceeds of the sales.

The biggest buyers of Tongan citizenship were 189 ethnic Chinese who gave China as their birth, followed by 142 who gave Hong Kong as their place of birth.

Other countries given as places of birth for the new Tongans were Taiwan (23), Macao (10), Thailand (9), Singapore (9), Burma (8), South Africa (7), Libya (5), United States (5), Philippines (3), Malaysia (3), Indonesia (2), Dubai (2) and Equador, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Swaziland, Saudi Arabia and Japan (1 each).